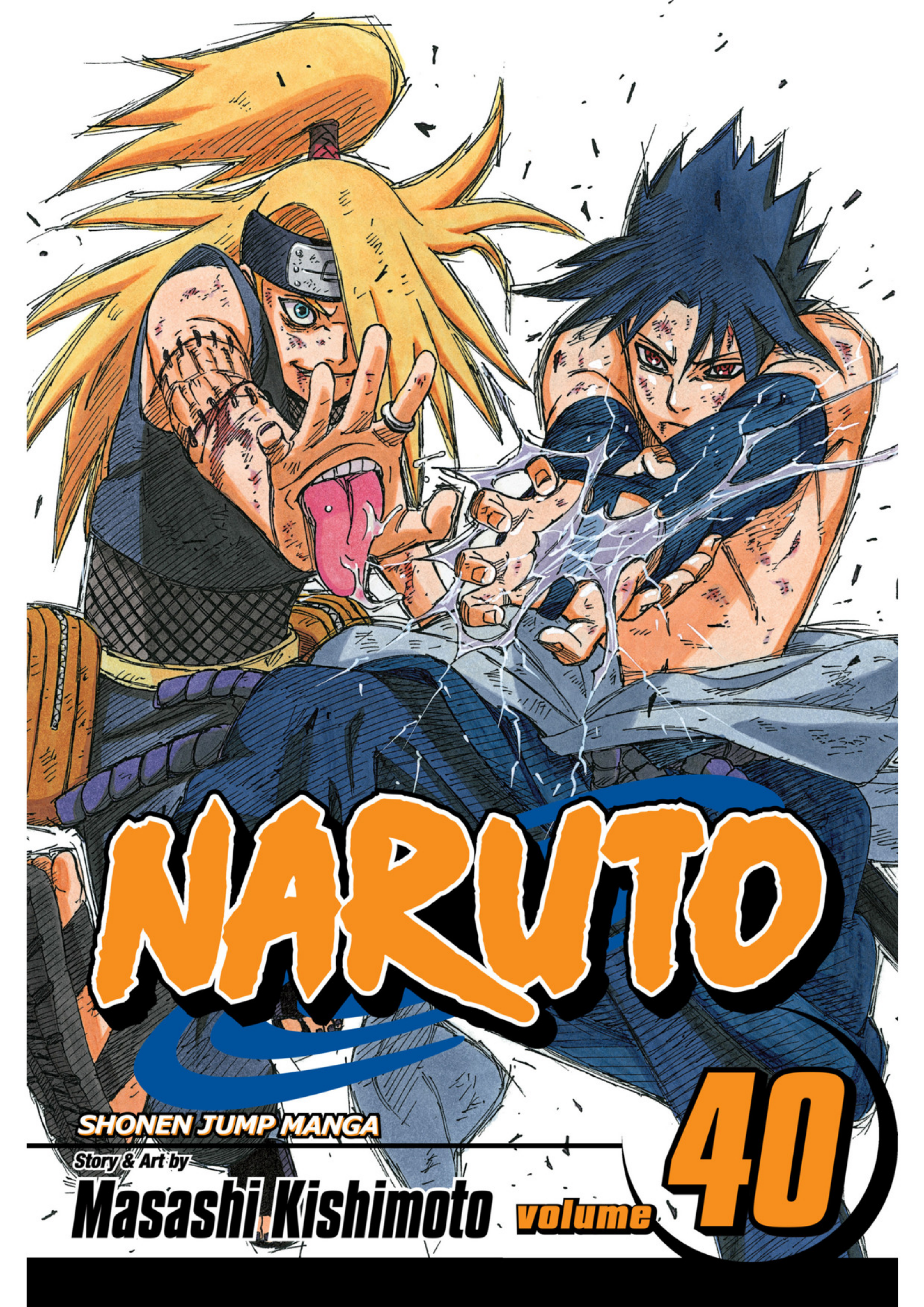

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 40





Nostalgic radio-controlled plastic model vehicles have recently made a comeback, just a bit smaller and easier to operate! So cool, I can't stand it!! The most popular models are, as before, buggy types like the Hornet and Mighty Frog! ...Please bring back my previous favorite, Pajero, too, Mr. Tamiya!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2007

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 40
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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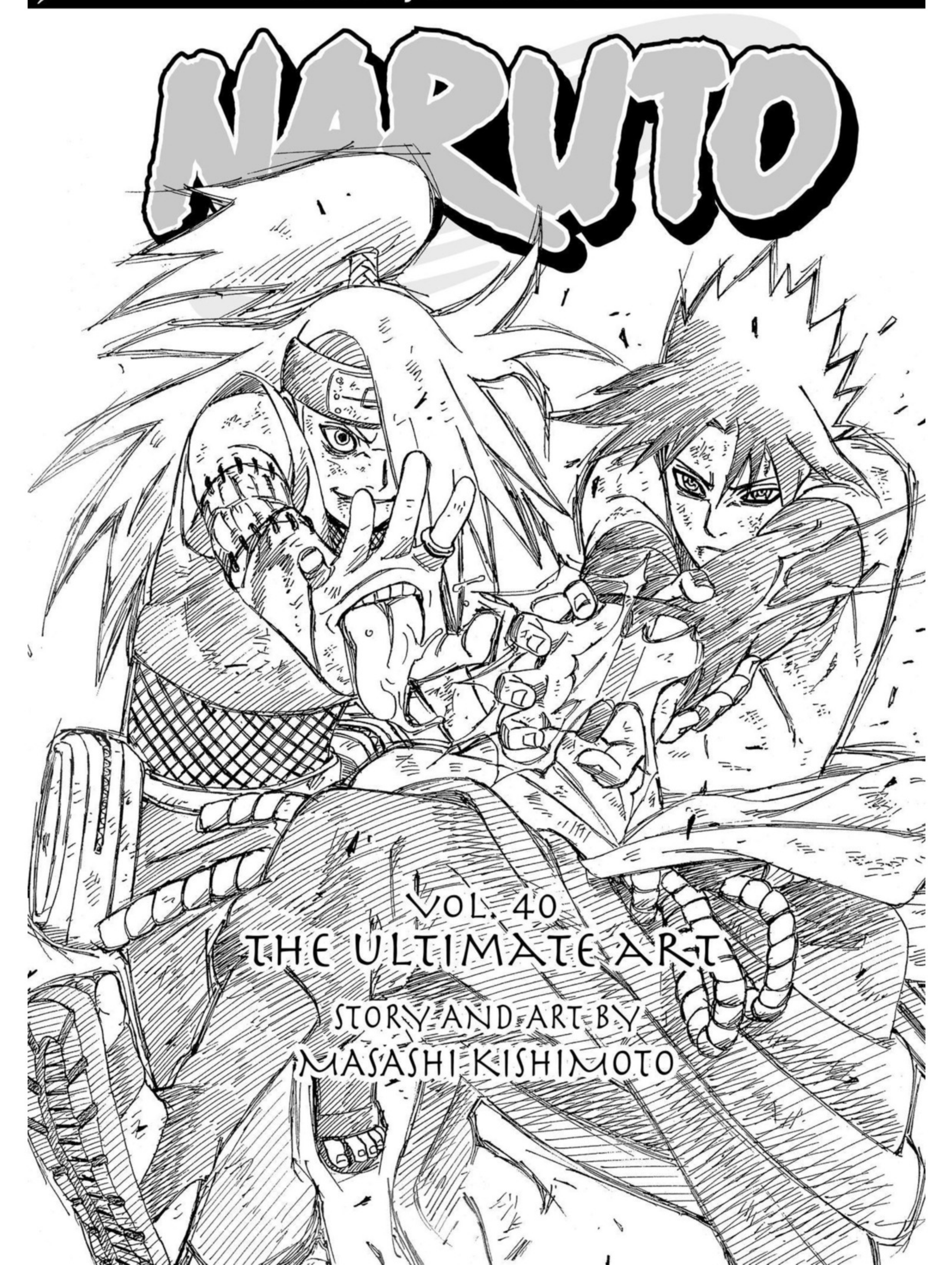
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION
NARUTO
VOL. 40
THE ULTIMATE ART
STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO

CHARACTERS















THE STORY SO FAR...

Once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy, Uzumaki Naruto now serves dutifully among the ranks of the Konoha shinobi—an illustrious group of ninja sworn to protect their village from the forces of evil seeking to destroy it from without and within…

After his former classmate, Uchiha Sasuke, is seduced by the evil Orochimaru, Naruto makes it his personal mission to find and save his friend from the darkness growing inside him. Unfortunately, Sasuke doesn't want to be saved. All he wants is revenge on the one person he hates most in the world… the person he blames for the murder of his parents… his older brother, Uchiha Itachi.

Assembling his shinobi cell, The Hebi, Sasuke sets out to find and kill his brother. But his quest for vengeance soon brings him into conflict with Deidara and Tobi—members of the insidious organization known as the Akatsuki. Though Sasuke quickly gains the upper hand with the formidable power of his Sharingan, Deidara tips the scales by unveiling his latest masterpiece of destruction…





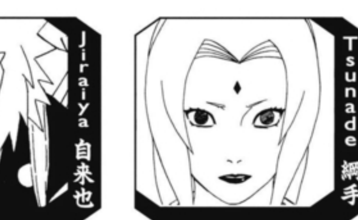














NARUTO

VOL. 40
THE ULTIMATE ART

CONTENTS



Number 360: The C4 Karura



THOOM

IF SO...

IS THIS AN EXPLOSIVE TOO?

HUF

HUF

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MY TRUMP CARD TO KILL ITACHI WITH, BUT OH WELL... HMMM?

Number 360: The C4 Karura





YOU'RE GOING TO RUN?!

BOOM

BOOM

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM ME?! AND MY C4 KARURA?

FLAP

SHOOM

SNAP

SNAP

FWP

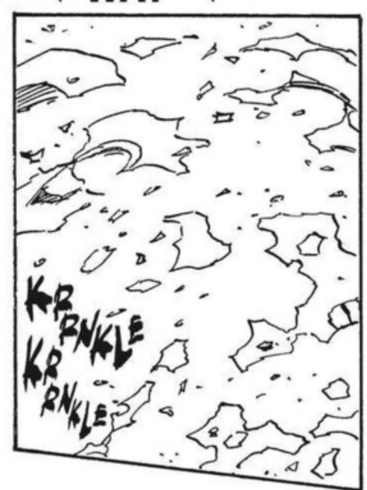
HOOOO...


...OOM
MMM...
POOOW!!

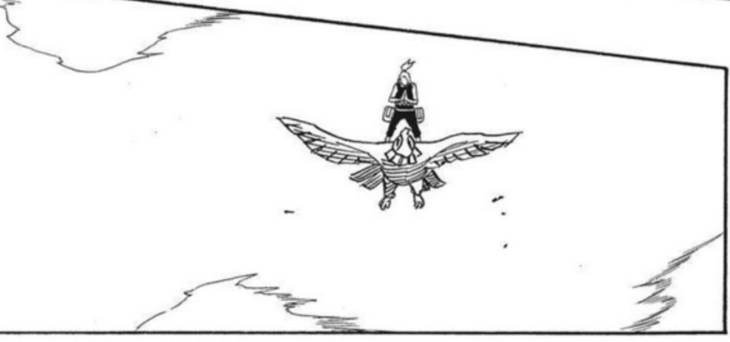

READ THIS WAY


?!


KRRNKLE KRRNKLE


KRRNKLE KRRNKLE

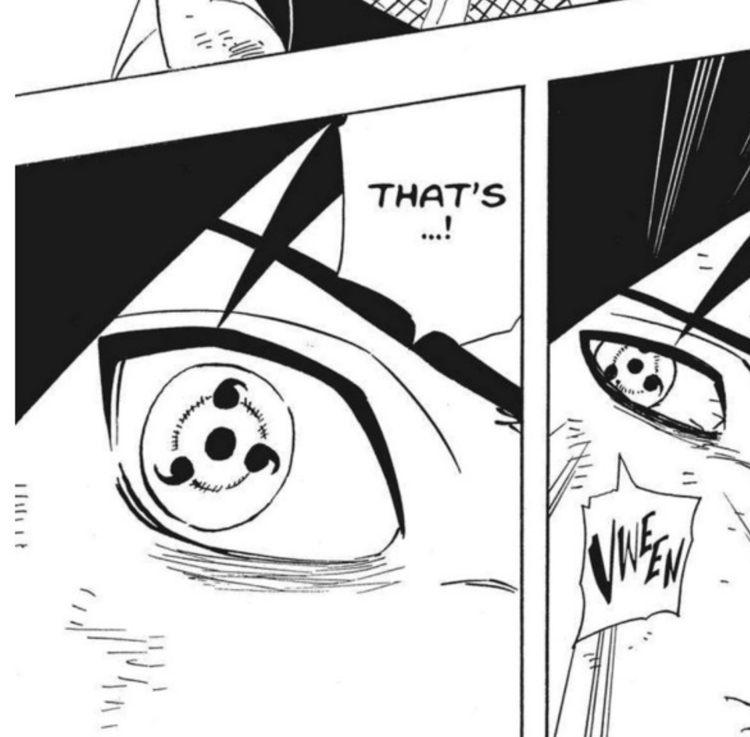

...IT MIS-FIRED?



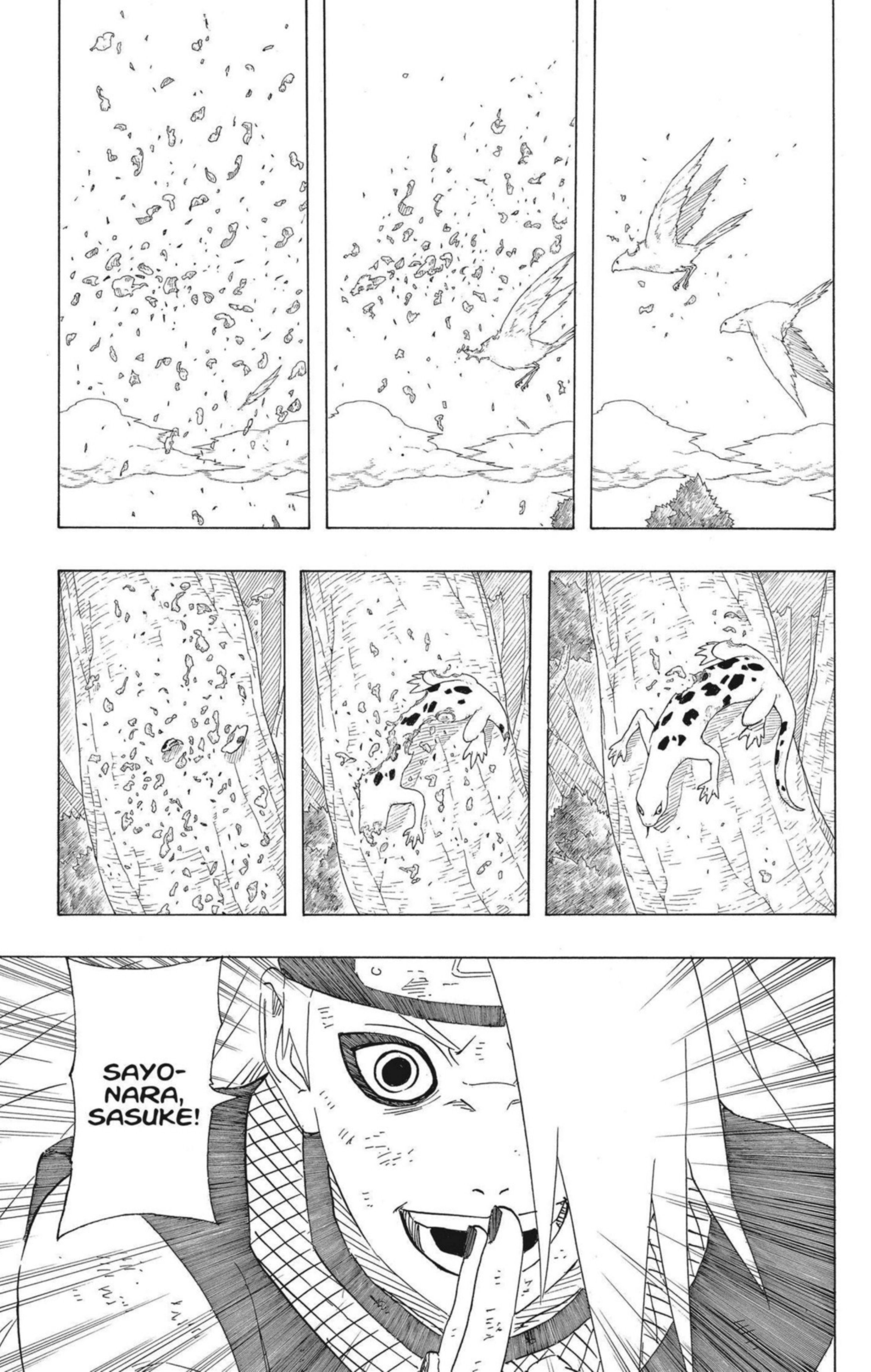



NO... THAT'S NOT IT.


...
VWEEN


THAT'S ...!


HA HA! I WIN!!
ART IS AN EXPLO-SION!!
SHOOM
YEEAH AGH


SAYO-
NARA,
SASUKE!

GAH...

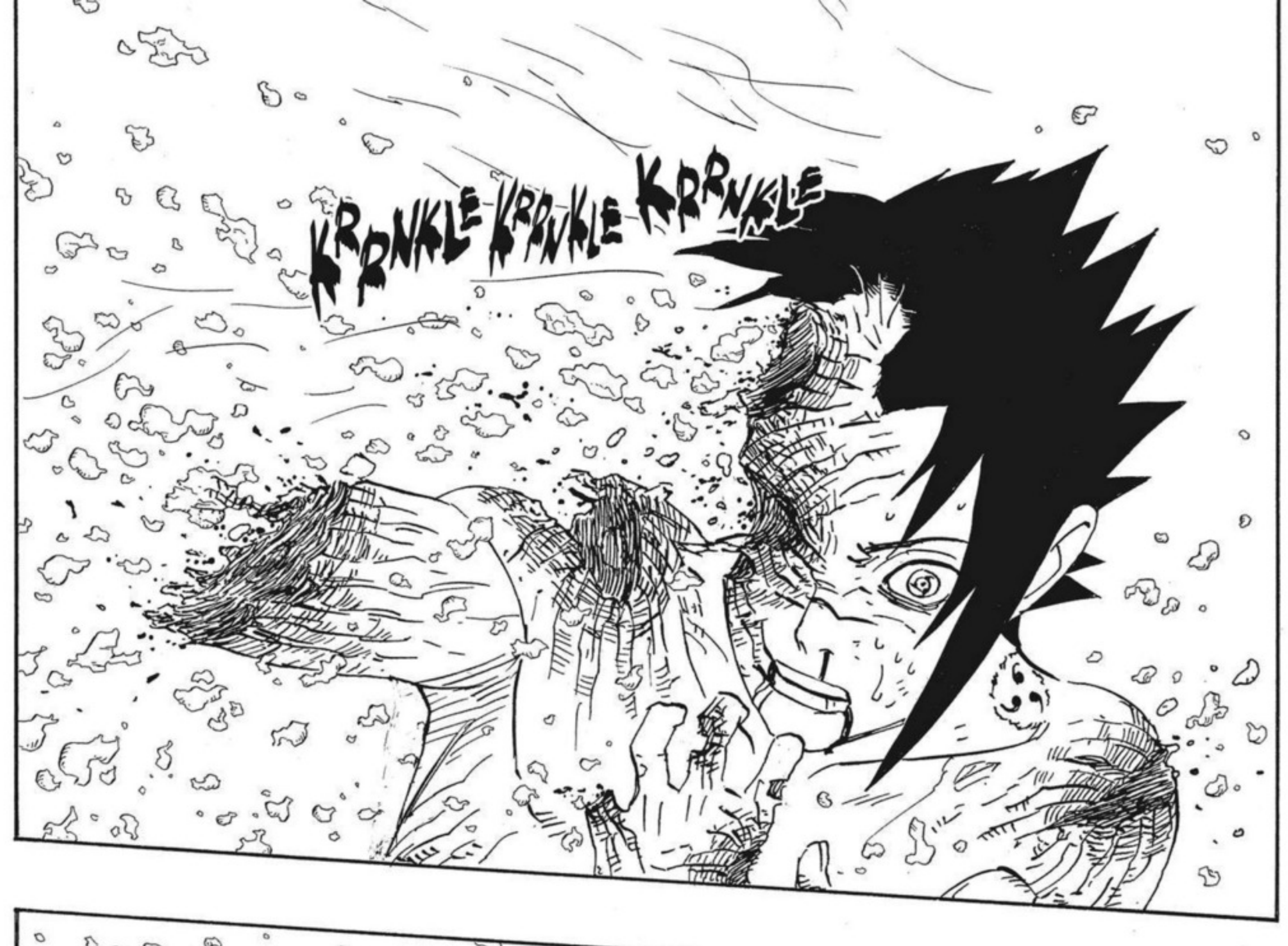
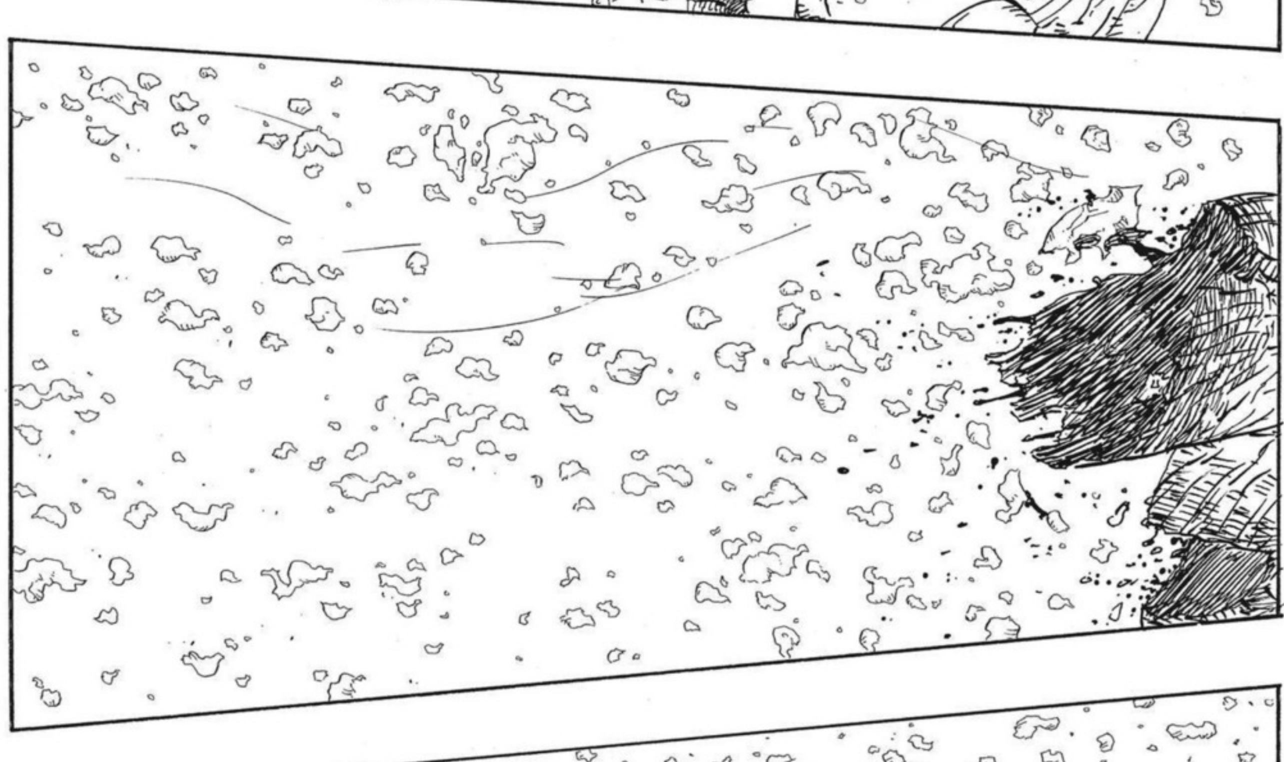
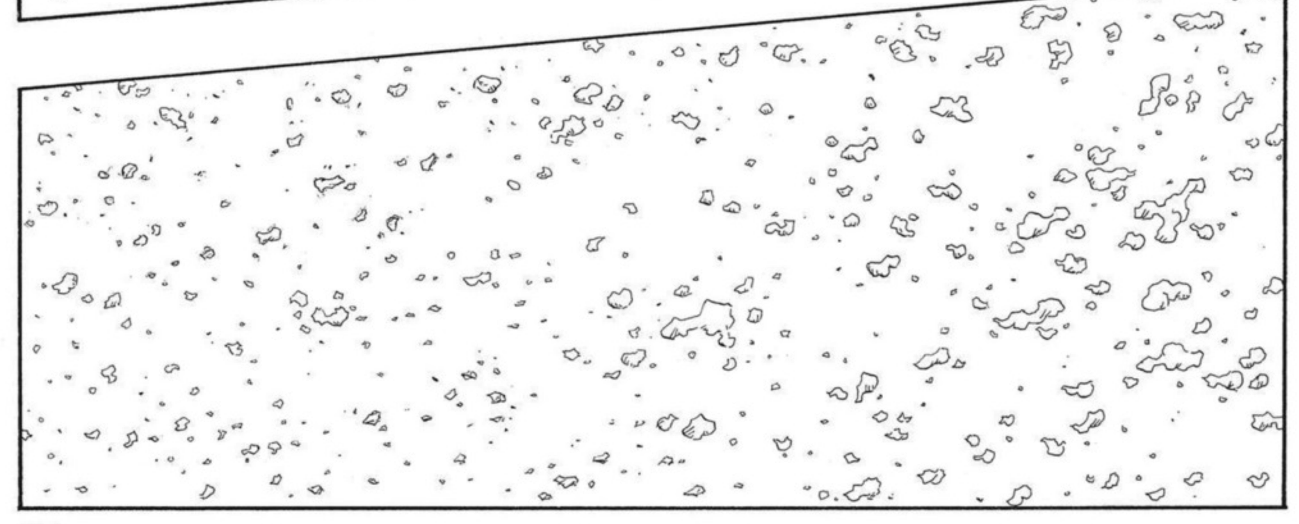
KRRNKLE

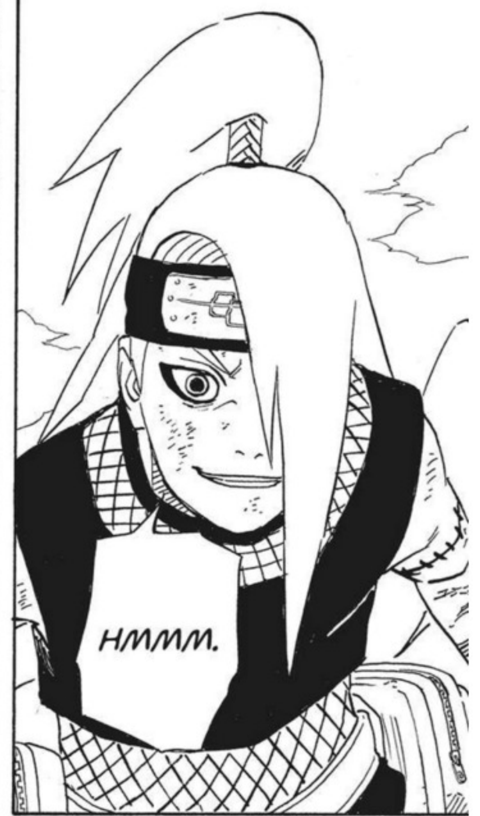
KRRNKLE

NO WAY... THAT'S ...

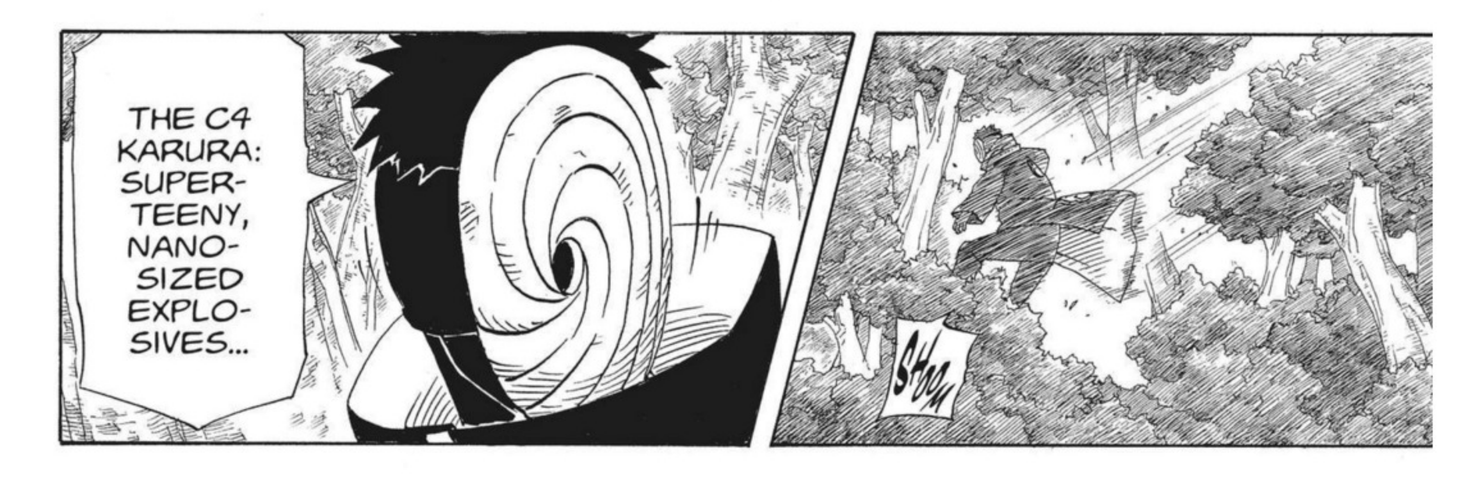
KRRNKLE KRRNKLE KRRNKLE ...

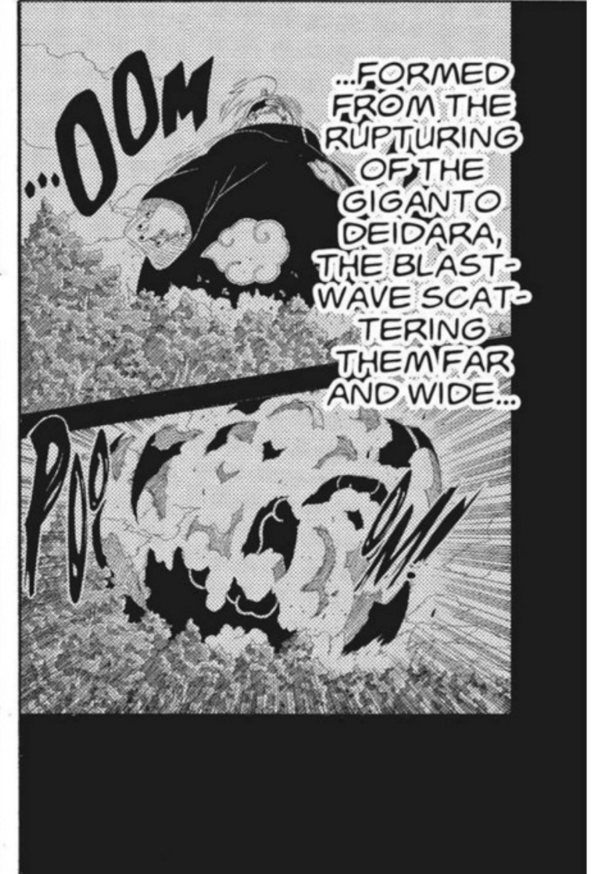
KRRNKLE

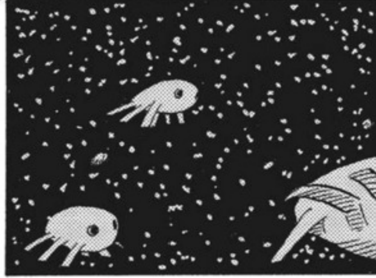

KRRNKLE KRRNKLE KRRNKLE



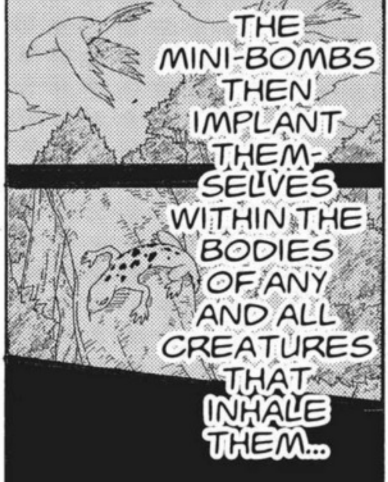

HMMM.

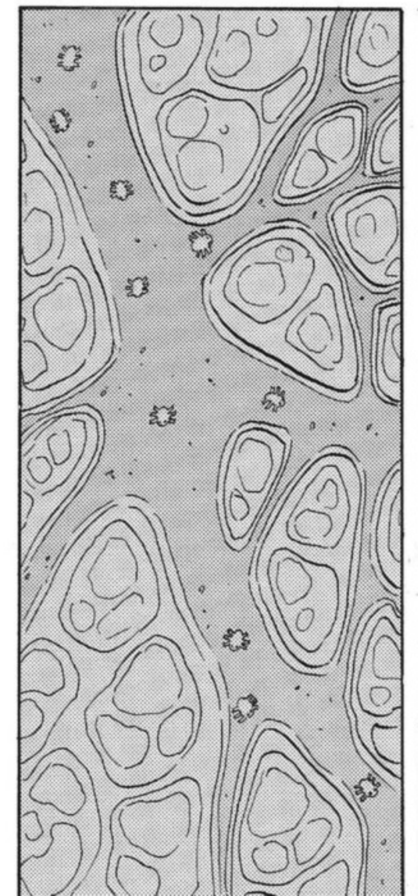

HMMM! HMMM! HMMM!
NOW **THIS** IS MY GREATEST MASTER-PIECE!!


SHOOM
THE C4 KARURA: SUPER-TEENY, NANO-SIZED EXPLO-SIVES...

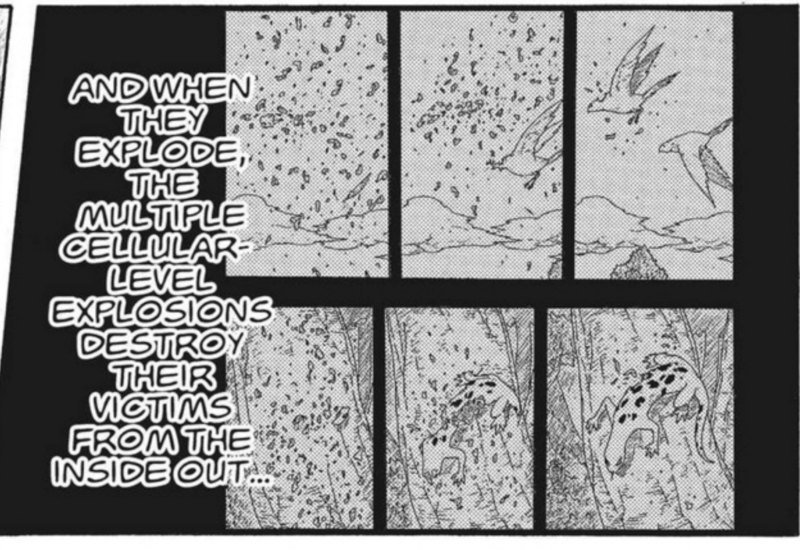

...DOOM
...FORMED FROM THE RUPTURING OF THE GIGANTO DEIDARA, THE BLAST-WAVE SCAT-TERING THEM FAR AND WIDE...




THE MINI-BOMBS THEN IMPLANT THEM-SELVES WITHIN THE BODIES OF ANY AND ALL CREATURES THAT INHALE THEM...



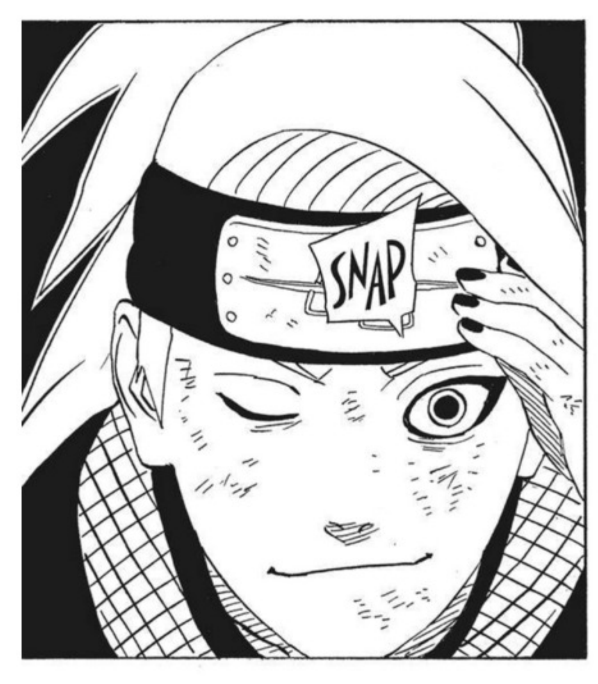
READ THIS WAY

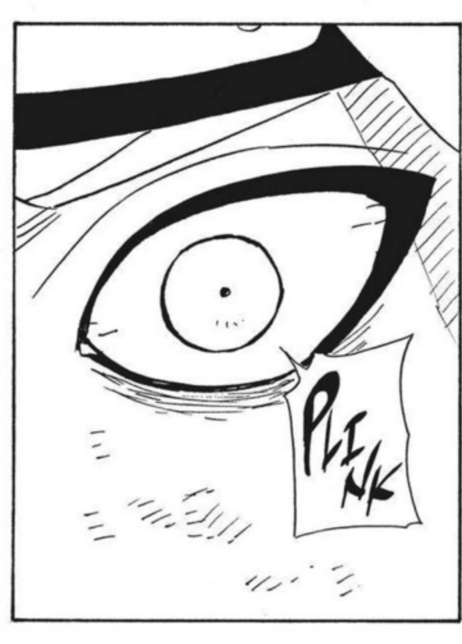


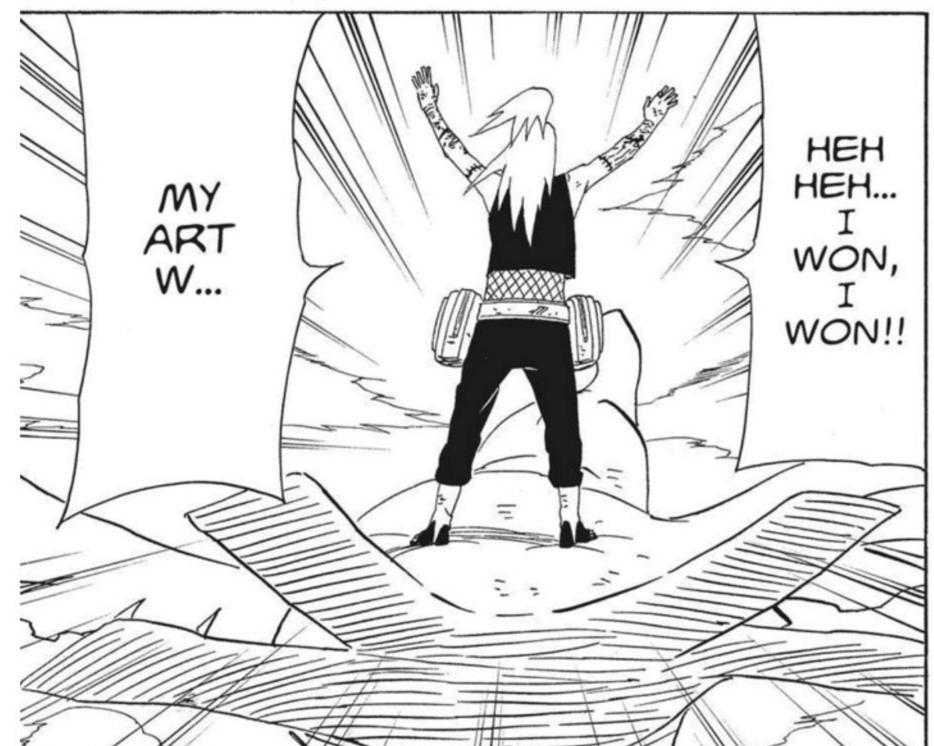




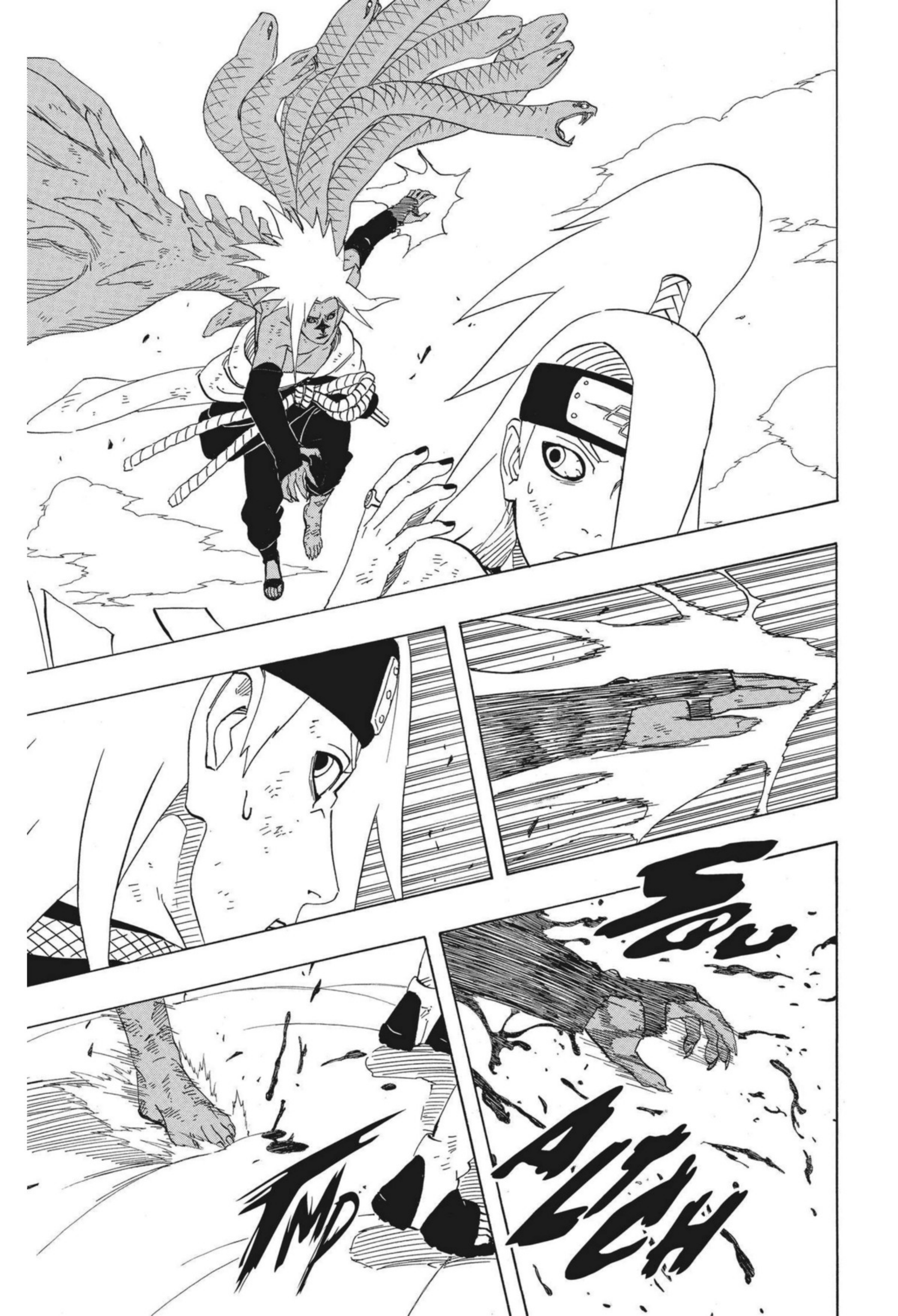






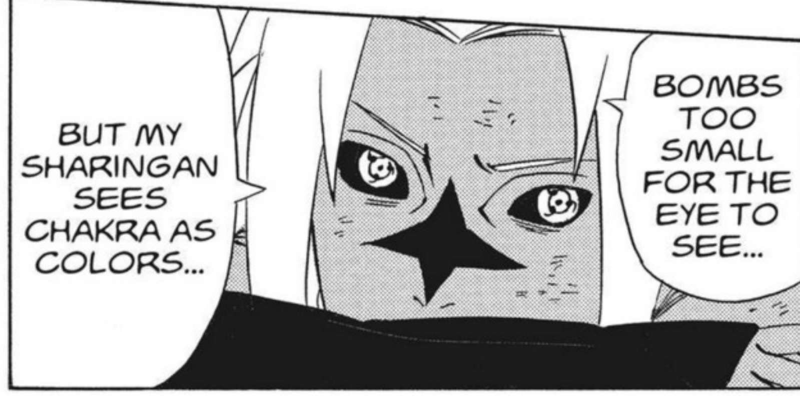


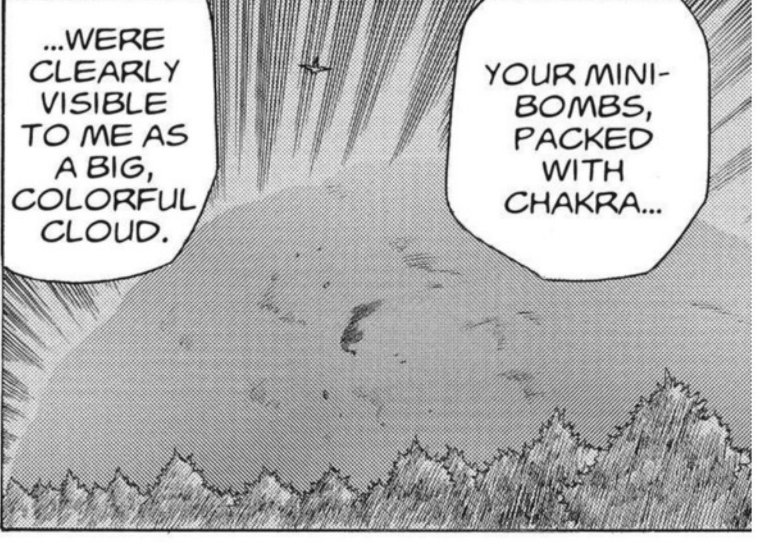


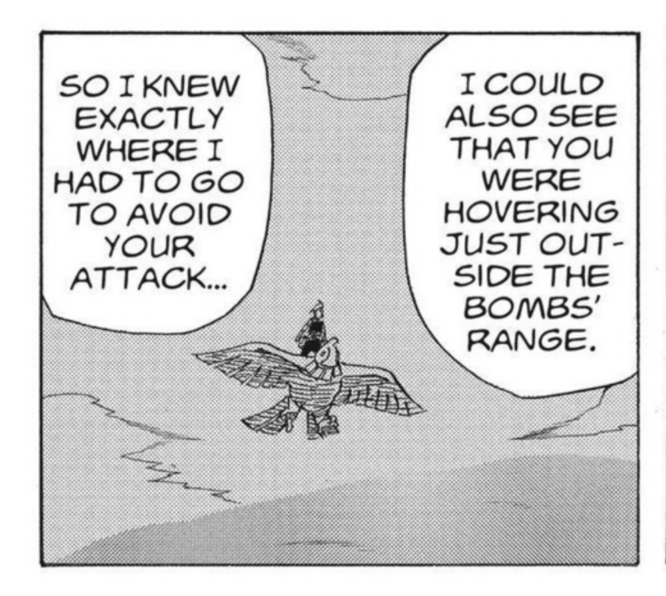


SEEMS YOU'VE USED UP ALL YOUR CHAKRA... YOUR REACTION TIME IS SLOW.











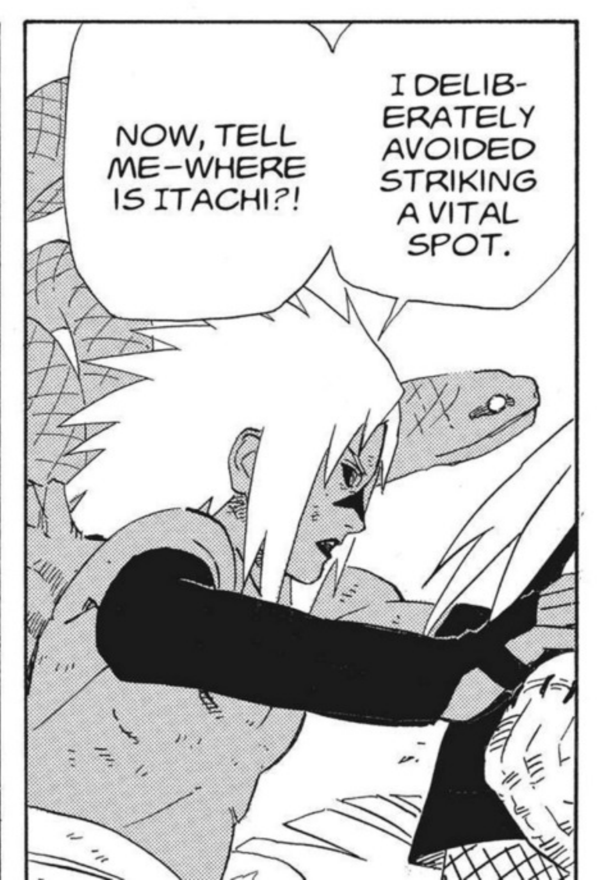
GRR...

BUT... I SAW YOU DIE FROM THE C4...

THAT WAS MY GENJUTSU.

GAH...

HEH HEH... SO... IT WAS JUST AS I THOUGHT...









?!
SQUICH
!
A... CLAY DOPPEL-GANGER ?!
I FIGURED YOU WOULD PERFORM A GENJUTSU.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ITACHI. DID YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT SAME TRICK TWICE... HMMM?!



EVER SINCE THE DAY I FIRST FACED ITACHI, I'VE TRAINED MY LEFT EYE TO NULLIFY THE SHARINGAN...

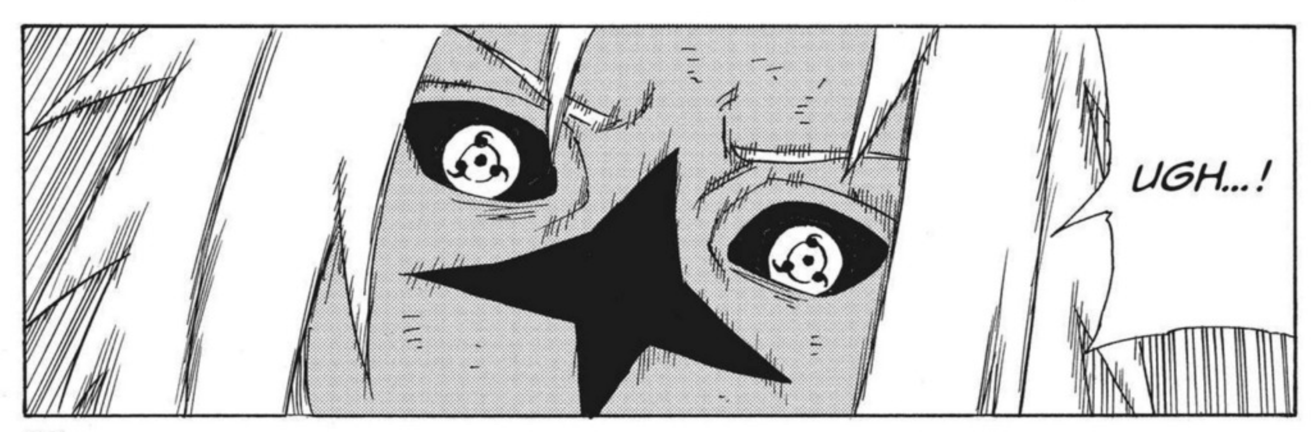
...JUST SO I COULD BREAK THAT VERY GENJUTSU!!

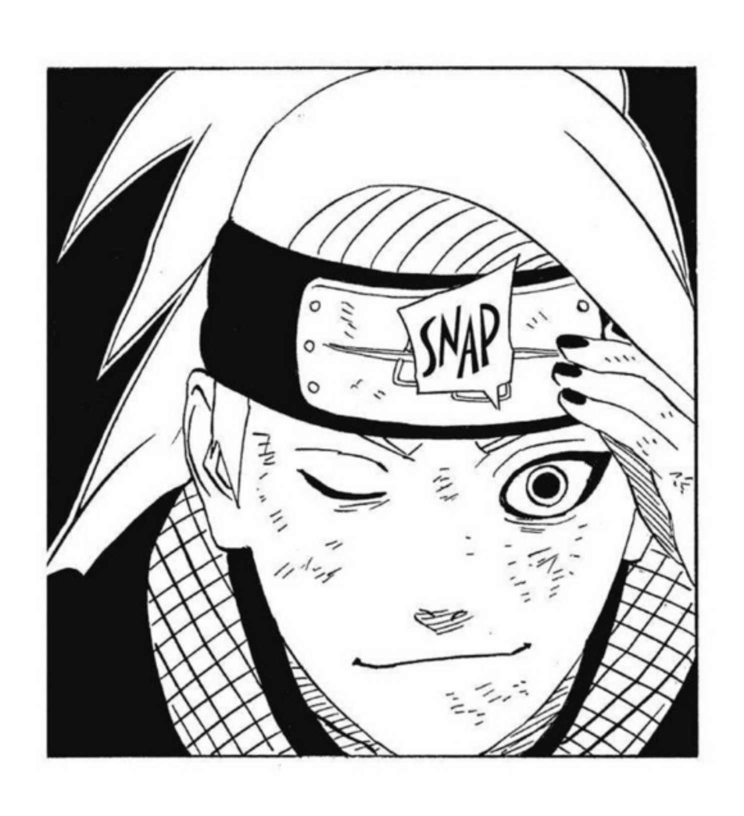
SNAP

PLINK

THIS TIME, IT'S OVER FOR REAL!!

HOW DO YOU LIKE A DIRECT C4 ATTACK?!




SNAP

Number 361: Achilles' Heel...!!

SPLAAAGH
!
ZWOOOOOO



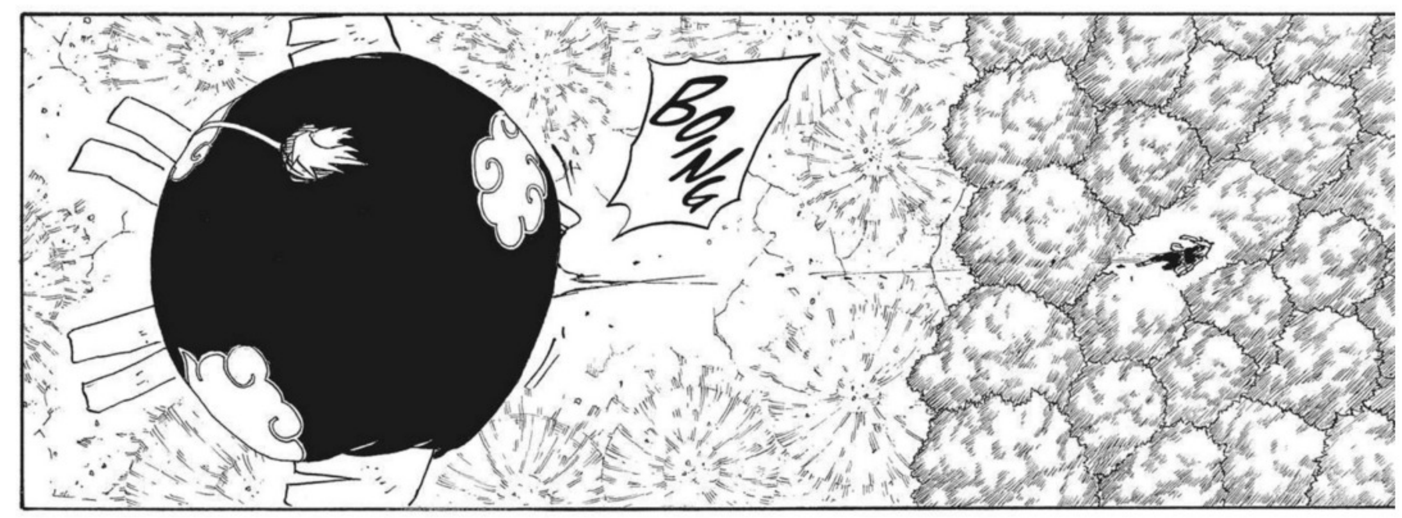




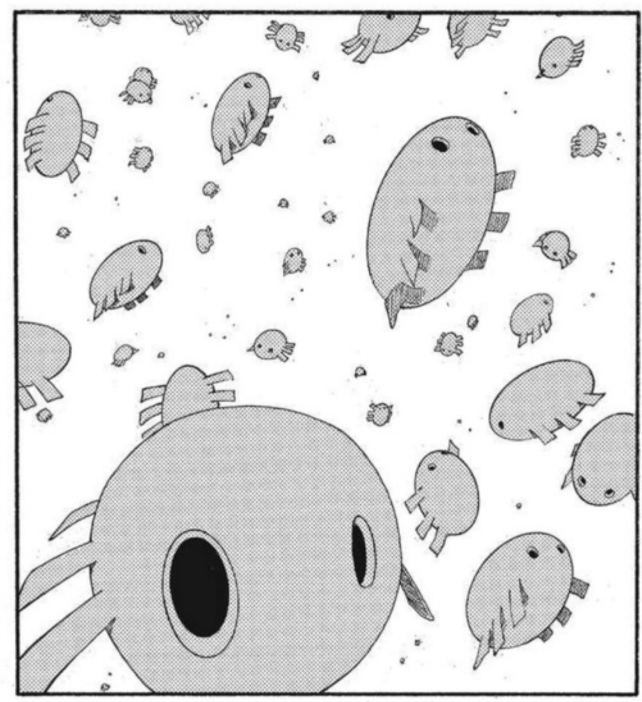
RRRRNT
ARGH ...!
ZZZH

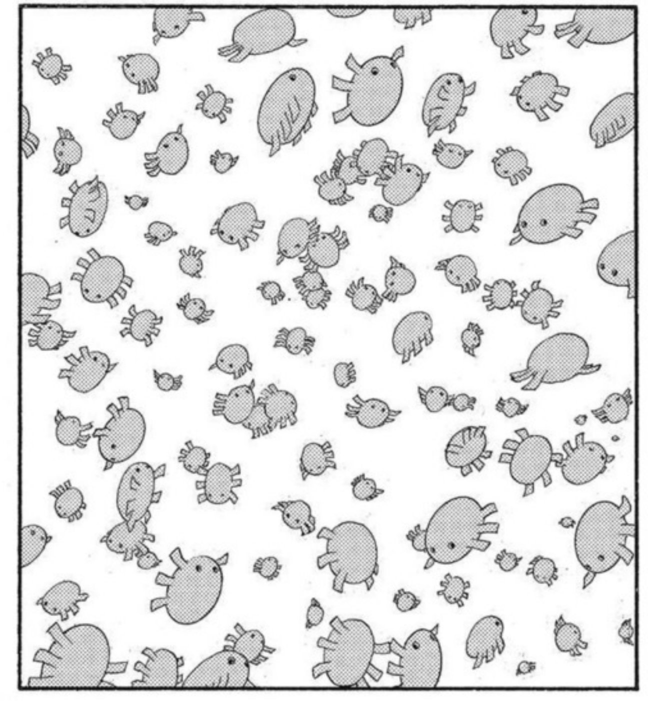
Number 361: Achilles' Heel...!!

SNAP
NOW WHO'S THE ONE RUNNING OUT OF CHAKRA... HMMM ?!
BET YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EVEN FREE YOURSELF.
SQUINCH
DO YOU...?

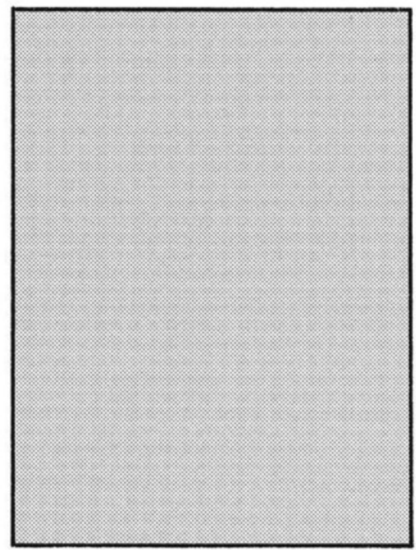


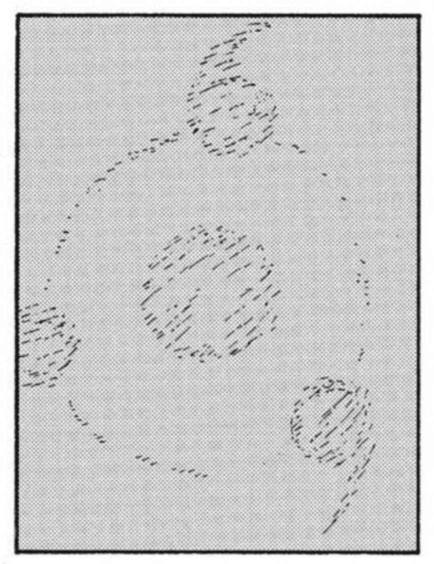

READ
THIS
WAY

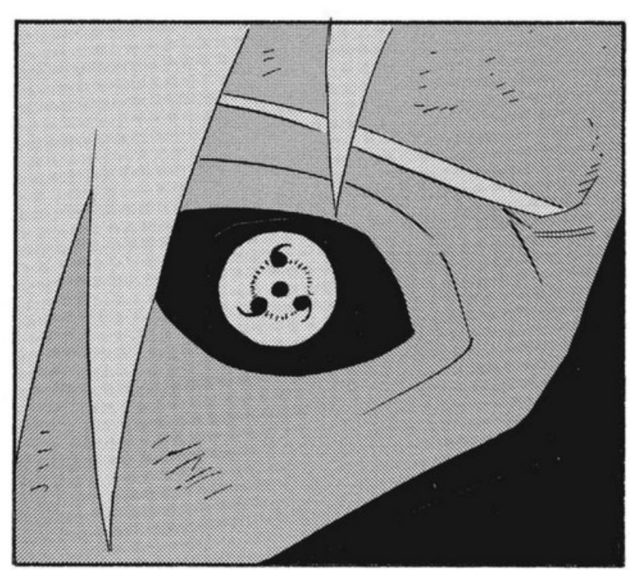


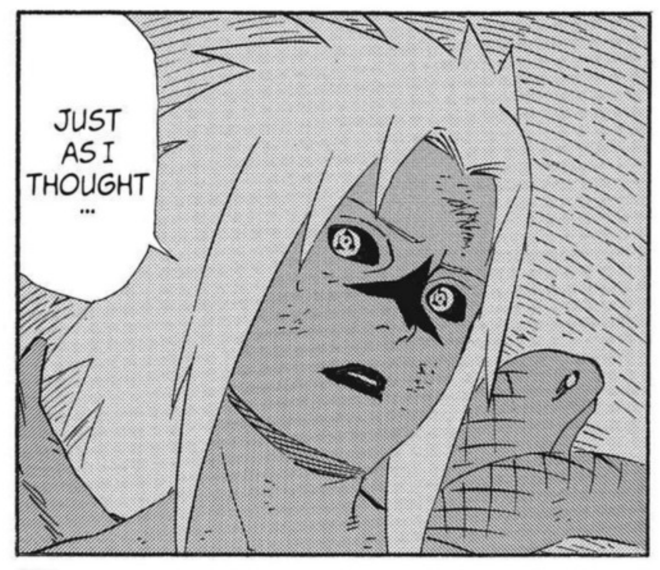








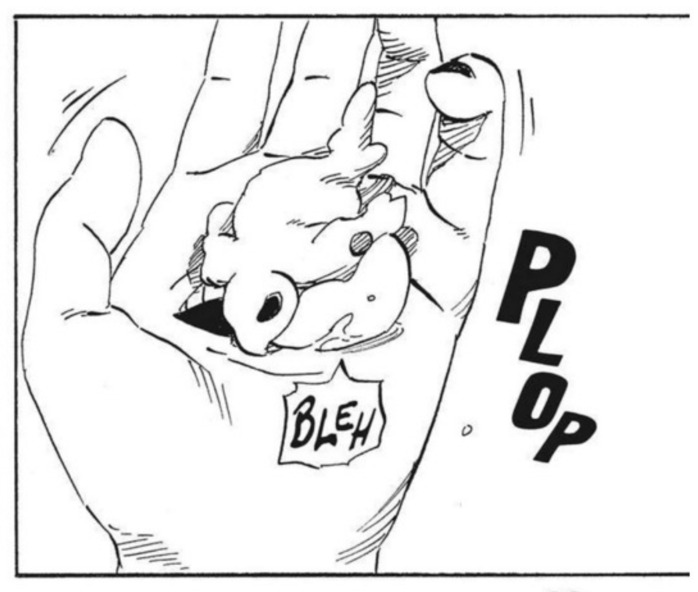


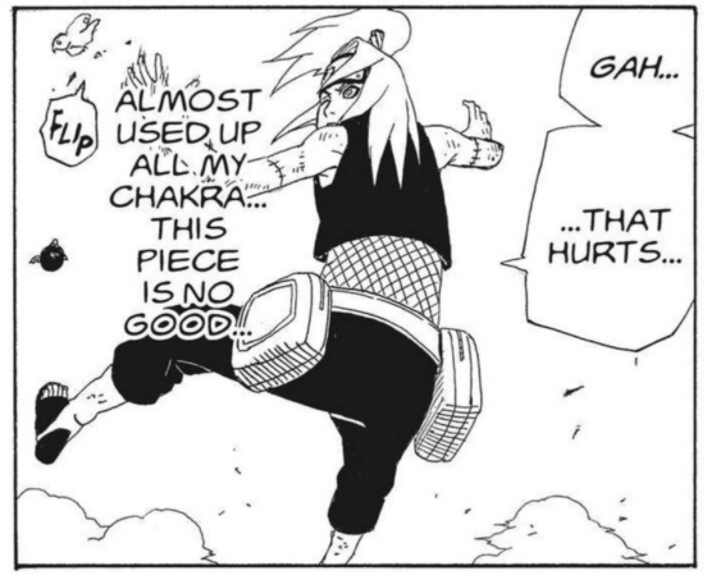

JUST AS I THOUGHT ...

THE INSIDE OF THIS MODEL IS JUST LIKE THE OTHER ONE.
FULL OF INVISIBLE C4 BOMBS...

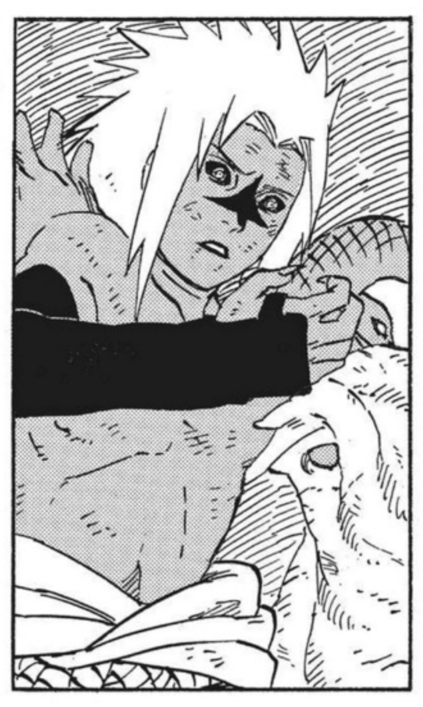
FAP

OW!
KRRNKLE
CHOMP CHOMP

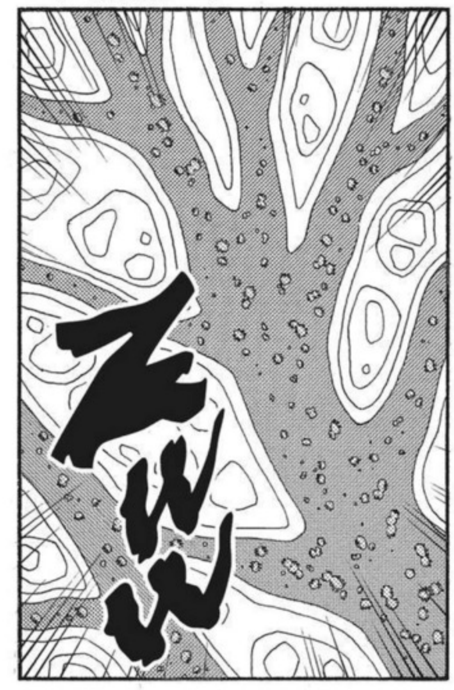












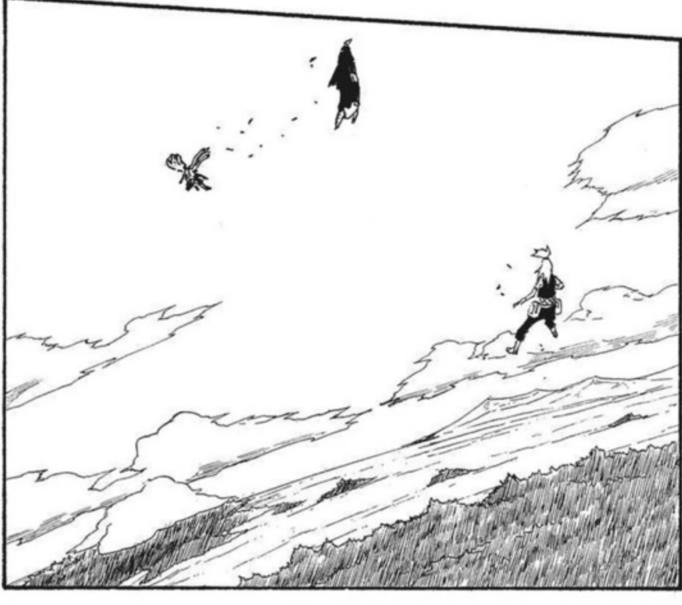
HOOMMM

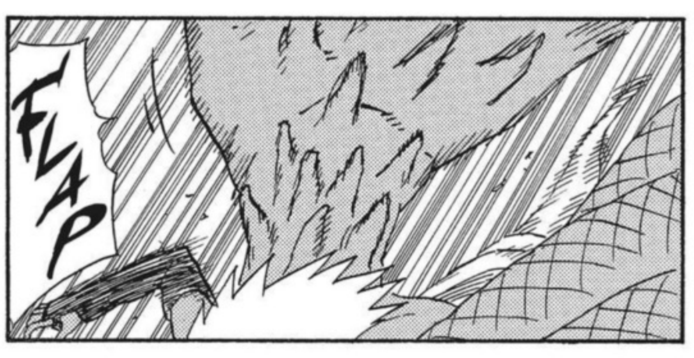
!

BZZZZZ

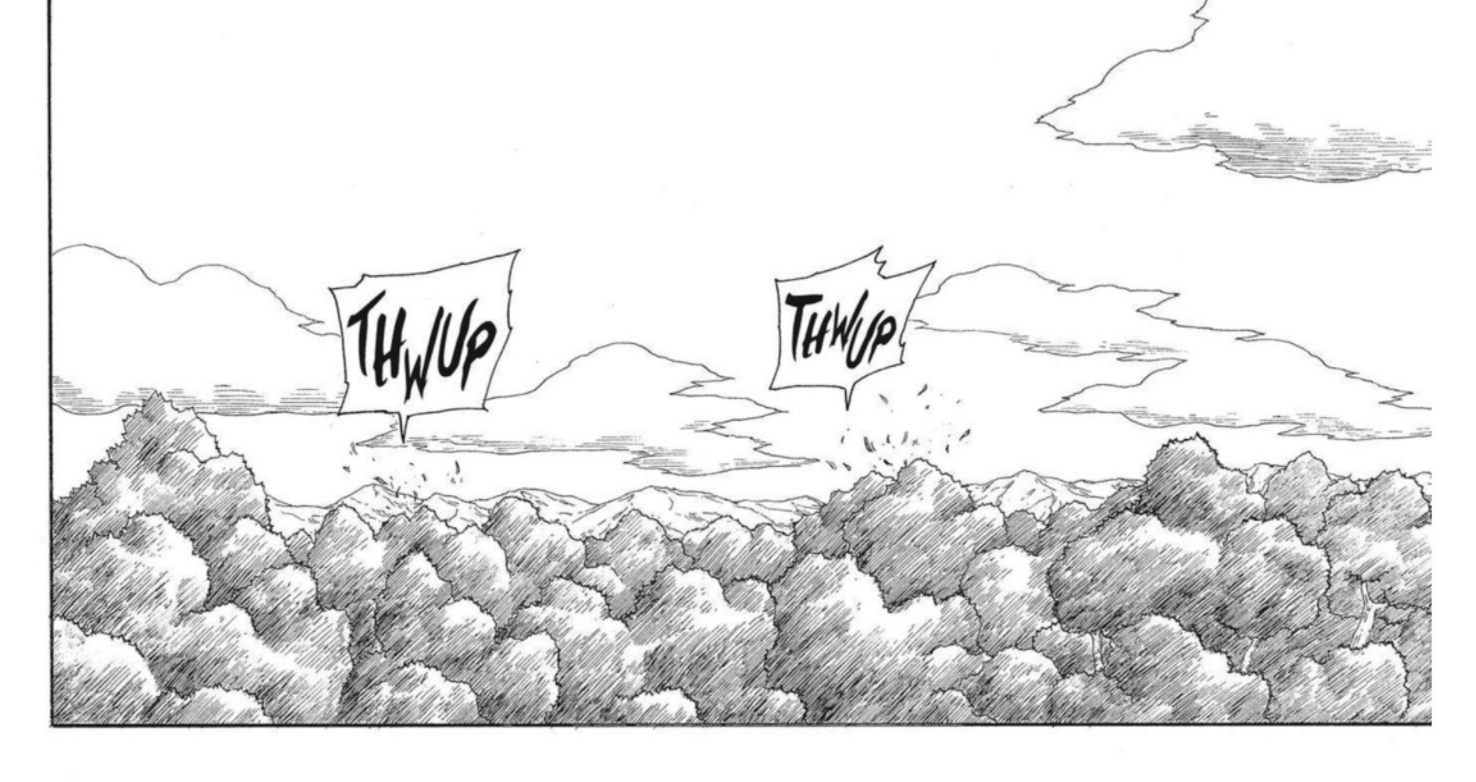
BZZZZZZAK

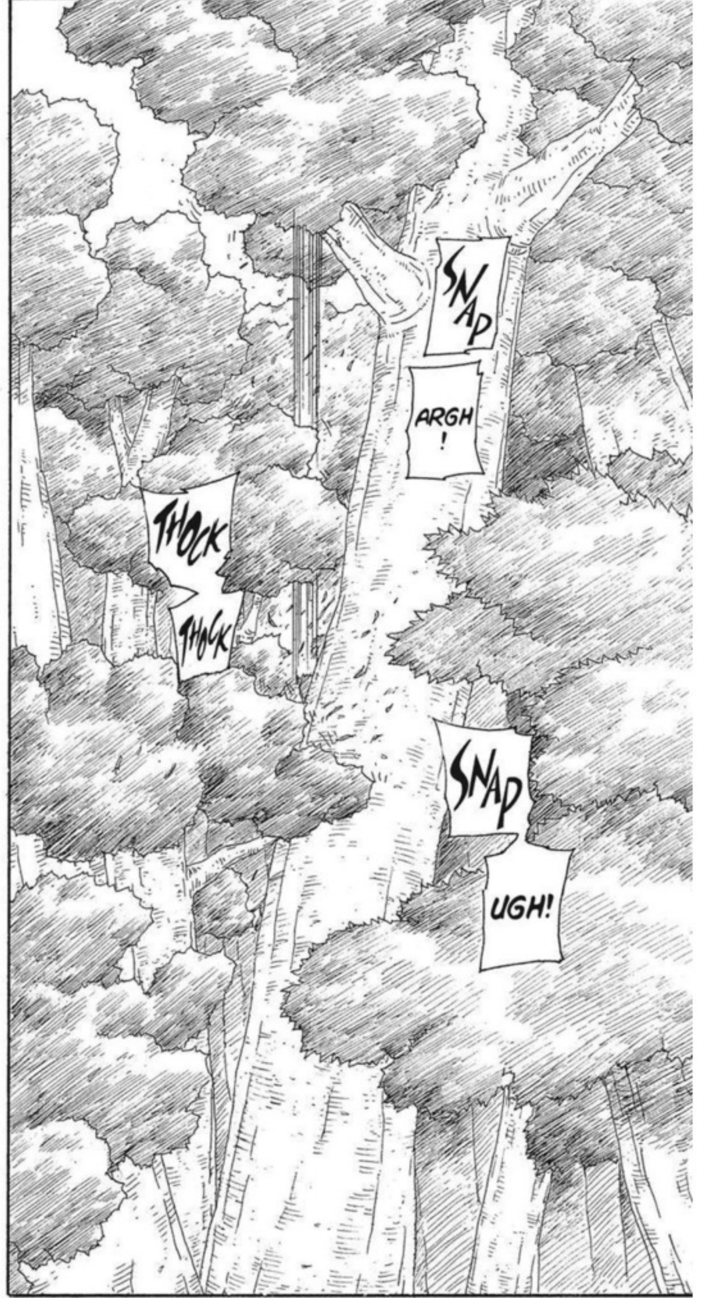

NOW WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO... *HMMM?!*
HE USED WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS LIGHTNING BLADE...
HUF
HUF
FWP



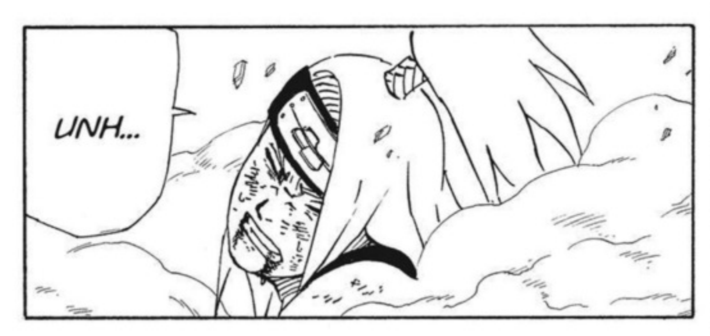

FLAP

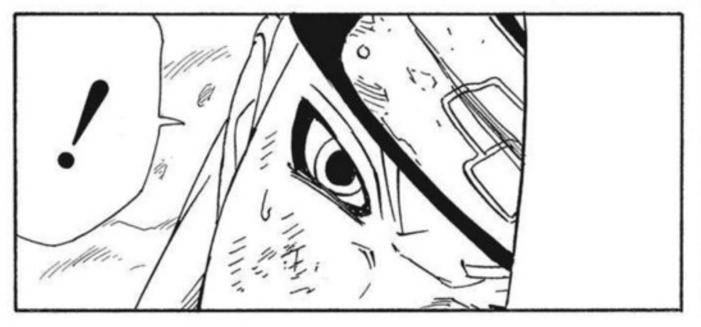

YOUR LIGHTNING BLADE ATTACK WILL NEVER REACH ME IN TIME FROM THAT DISTANCE!
GAME OVER!


THWUP
THWUP

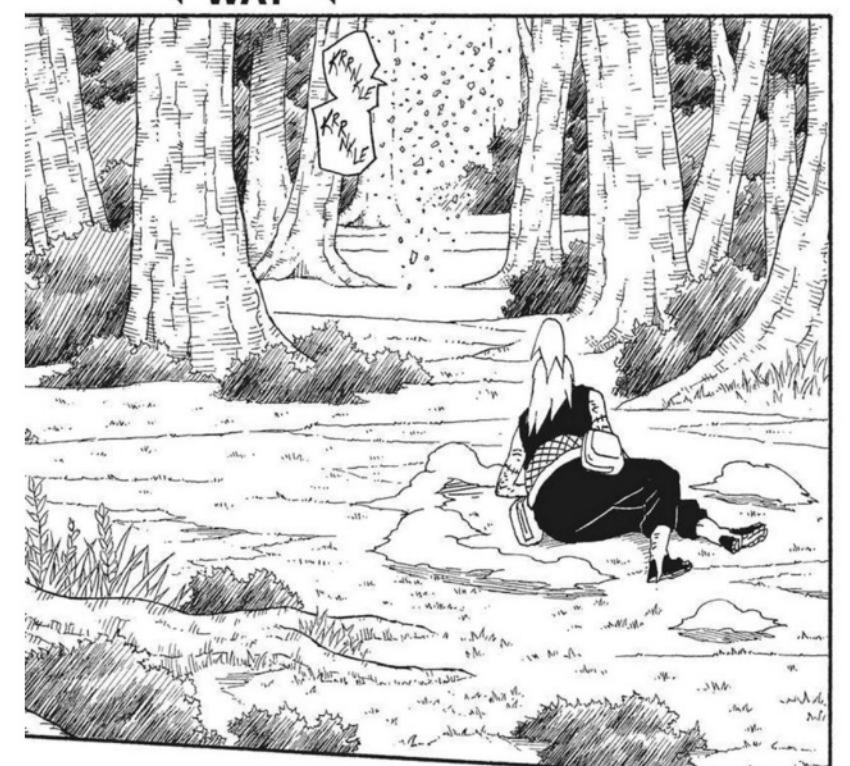

SNAP
ARGH!
THOCK
THOCK
SNAP
UGH!

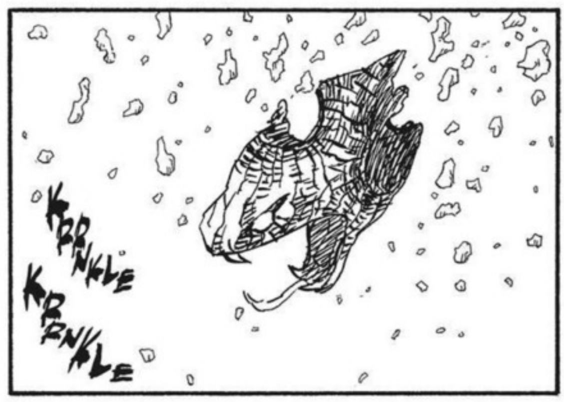

THUD
ARGH!

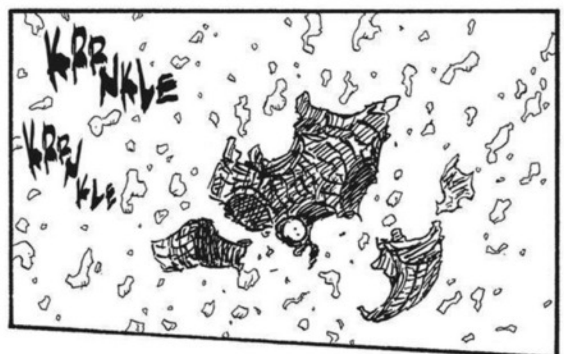

UNH...


!

READ THIS WAY
















...HA HA...
HMMM?
BA
KOOM

CRASH
AAARGH!!
HUF
HUF
BZZ...
HUF
BZZ...
HUF

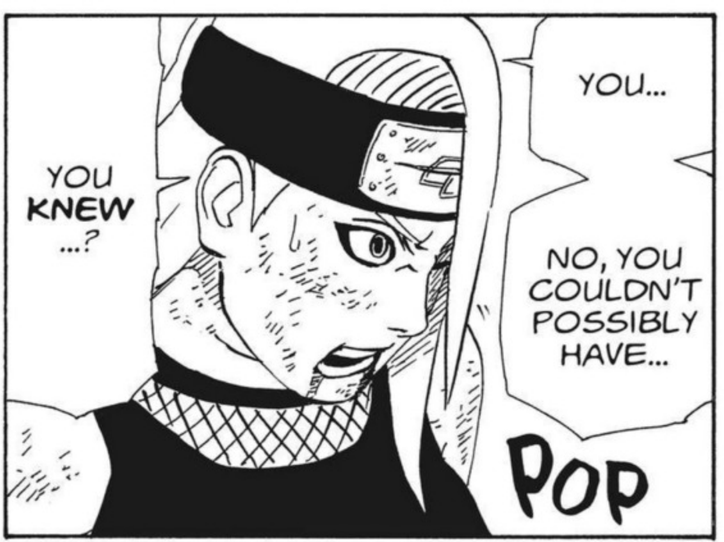

WHAT... HOW?
THIS IS NO GENJUTSU... WHICH MEANS...
DRIBBLE

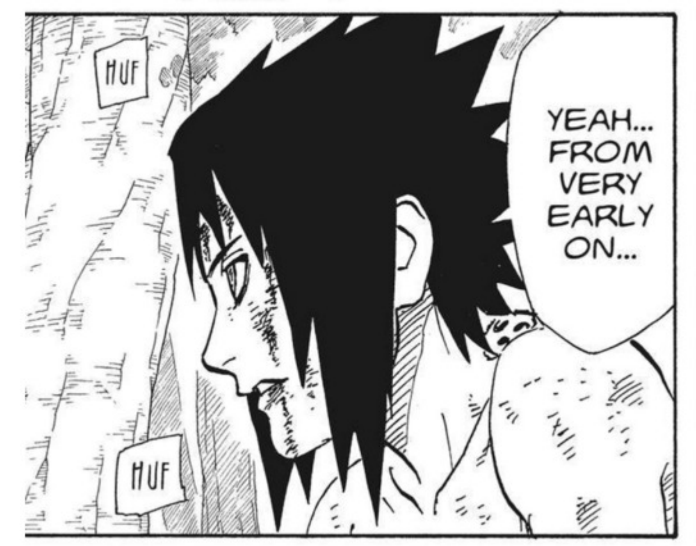

HOW DID YOU... DISARM THE C4 BOMBS...?
HUF
HUF

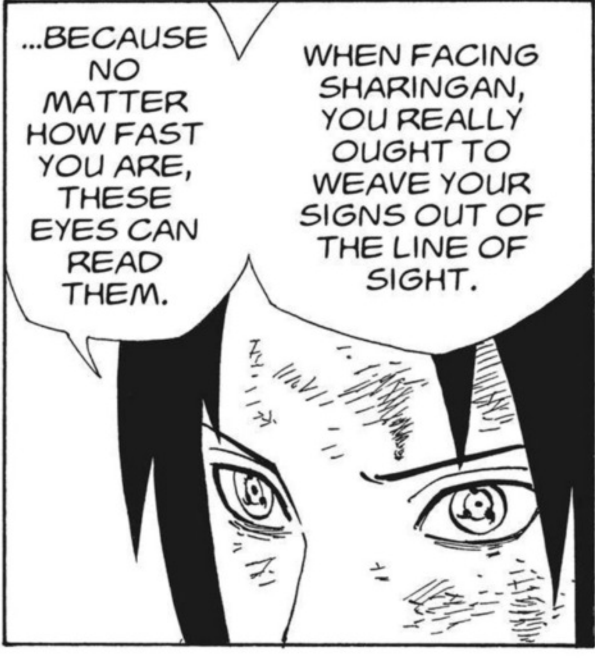

!

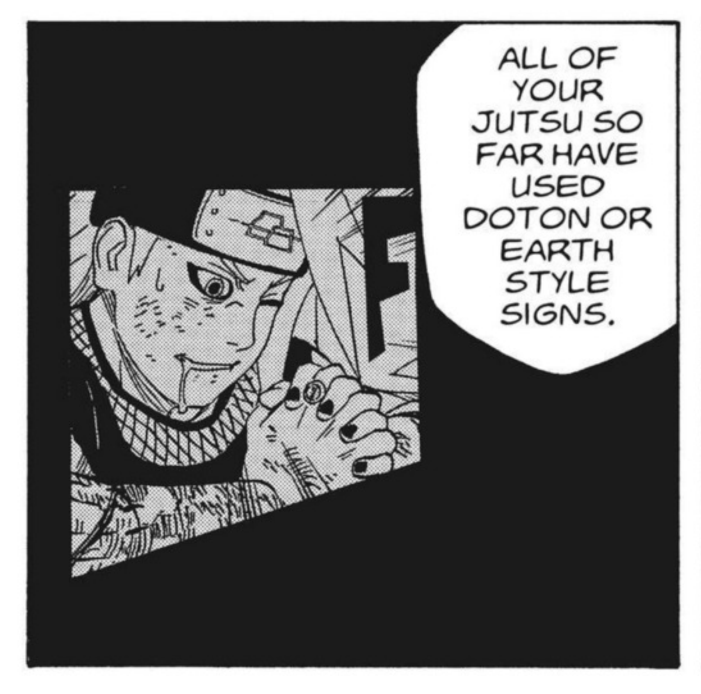
BZZZZ...
HUF
HUF
BZ


READ
THIS
WAY

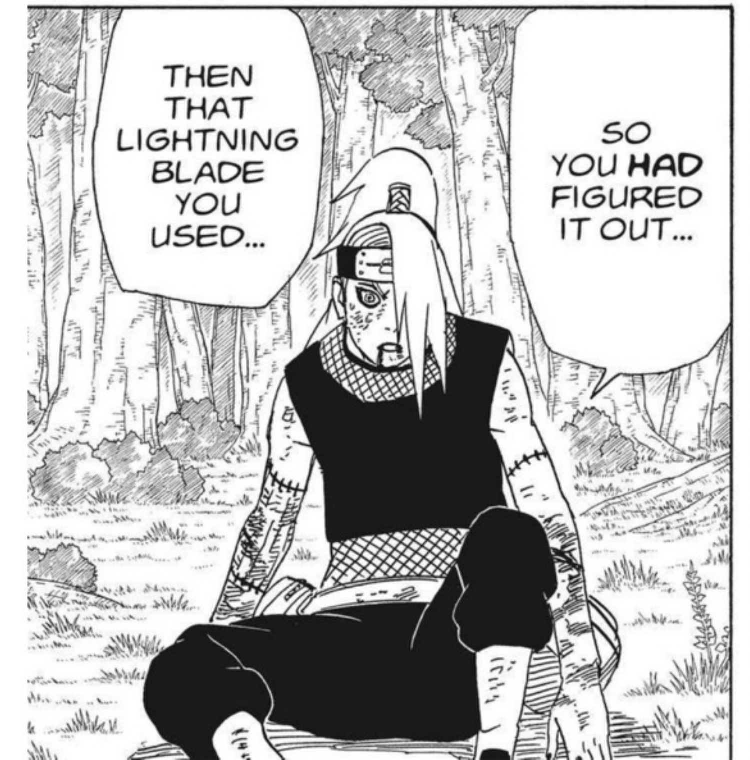

YOU...
NO, YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE...
POP
YOU KNEW ...?

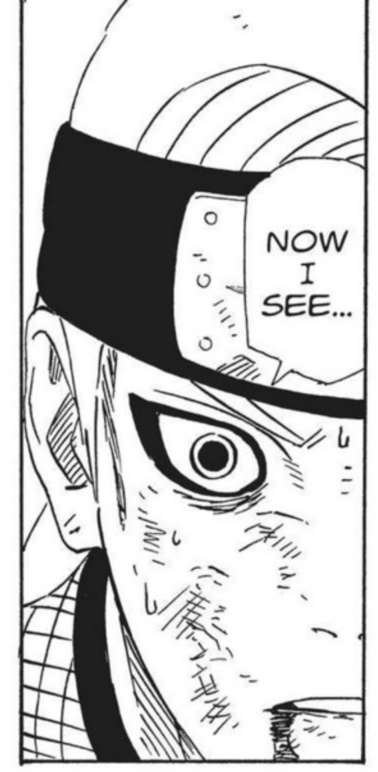

YEAH... FROM VERY EARLY ON...
HUF
HUF


WHEN FACING SHARINGAN, YOU REALLY OUGHT TO WEAVE YOUR SIGNS OUT OF THE LINE OF SIGHT.
...BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW FAST YOU ARE, THESE EYES CAN READ THEM.

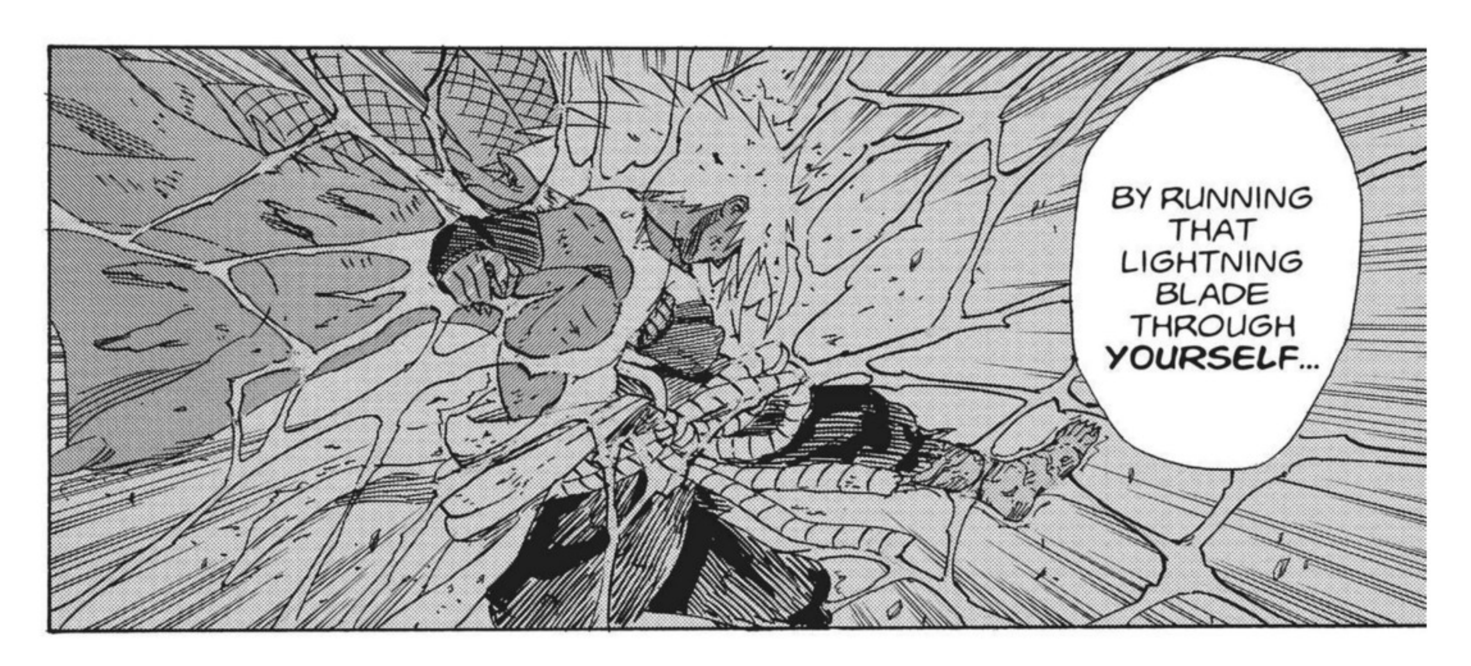

ALL OF YOUR JUTSU SO FAR HAVE USED DOTON OR EARTH STYLE SIGNS.

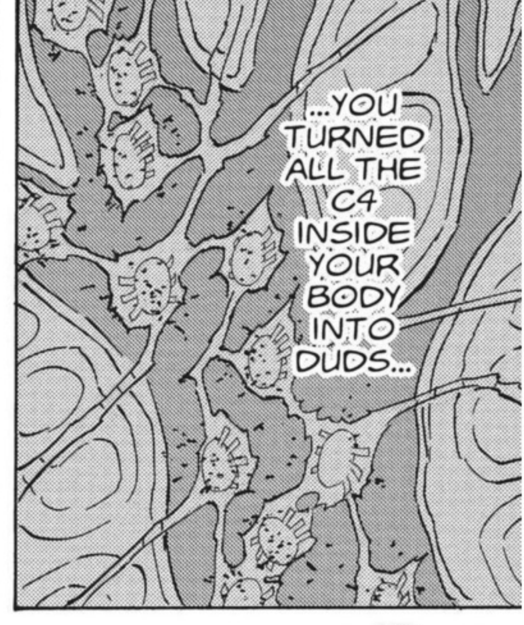

MY CHIDORI IS RAITON OR LIGHT-NING STYLE...
YOU DO THE MATH.


SO YOU HAD FIGURED IT OUT...
THEN THAT LIGHTNING BLADE YOU USED...


NOW I SEE...


DOTON IS VULNERABLE TO RAITON.
YOUR BOMBS CAN BE DEFUSED BY RUNNING RAITON THROUGH THEM...
...IT'S THEIR ACHILLES' HEEL.


BY RUNNING THAT LIGHTNING BLADE THROUGH **YOURSELF**...


...YOU TURNED ALL THE C4 INSIDE YOUR BODY INTO DUDS...


YEAH... BUT THE EFFORT SURE WORE ME OUT.
BY THE WAY, MY JUTSU IS TECHNI-CALLY CALLED CHIDORI...


I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DISSECTED MY ART'S WEAK POINT SO QUICKLY...
WHEN DID YOU REALIZE IT?



AFTER YOU DETONATED THOSE LAND MINES.

THOUGH I'VE BEEN ANALYZING YOU FROM THE GET-GO.

WHEN I COUNTERED YOUR FIRST ATTACK WITH MY CHIDORI SENBON...

THOCK THOCK THOCK THOCK THOCK

...I NOTICED THAT AMONG THE BOMBS YOU HURLED AT ME...

BOOM

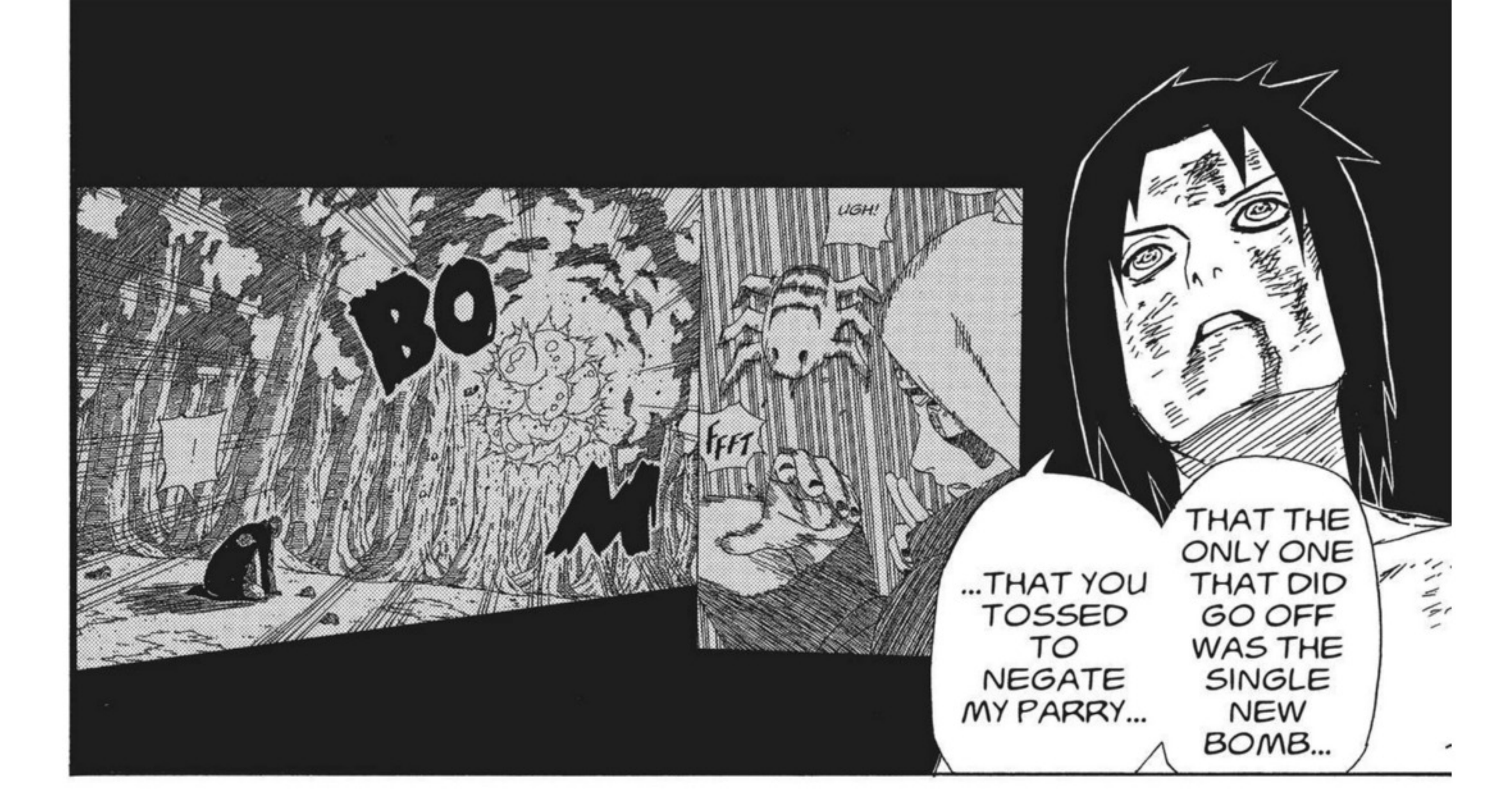
...MANY OF THEM DIDN'T GO OFF.

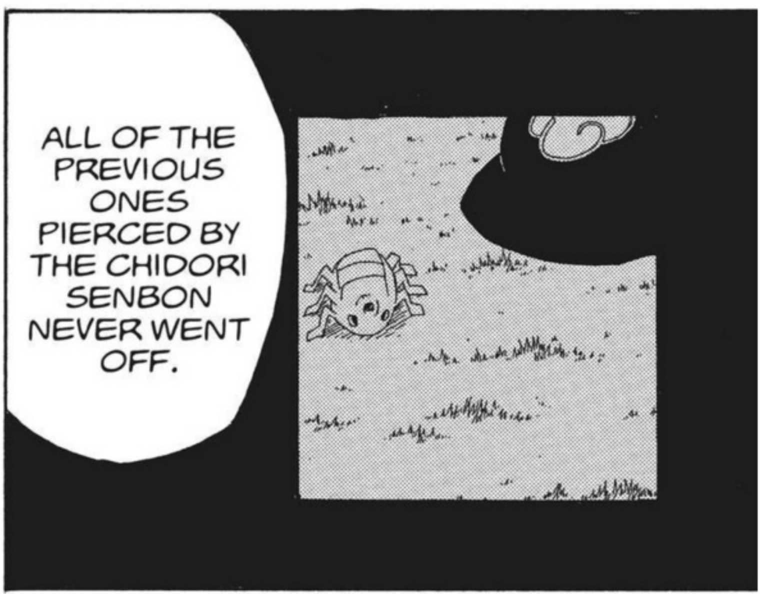
THAT'S WHEN I FORMULATED A HYPOTHESIS...

A HYPOTHESIS...?

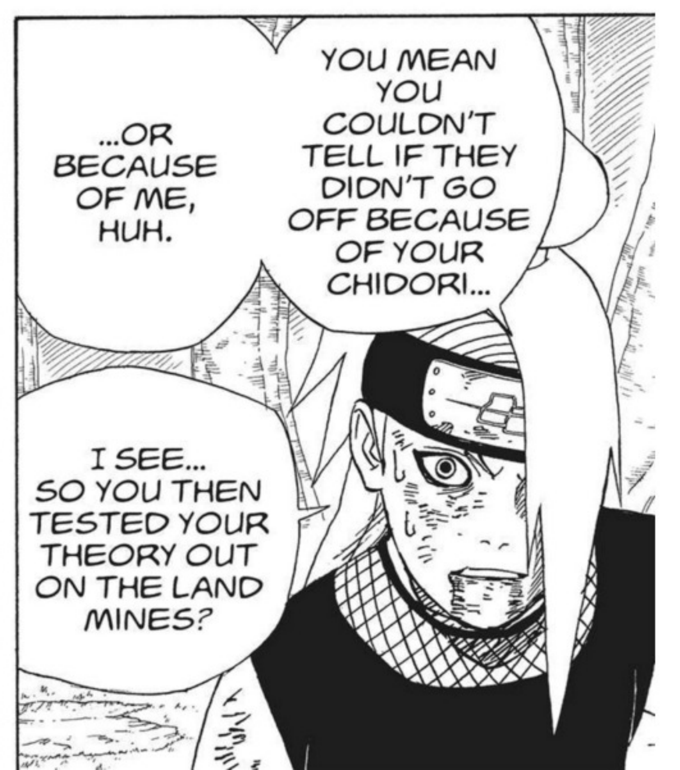
HUF

HUF


UGH!
BOM
FFFT
THAT THE ONLY ONE THAT DID GO OFF WAS THE SINGLE NEW BOMB...
...THAT YOU TOSSED TO NEGATE MY PARRY...


ALL OF THE PREVIOUS ONES PIERCED BY THE CHIDORI SENBON NEVER WENT OFF.

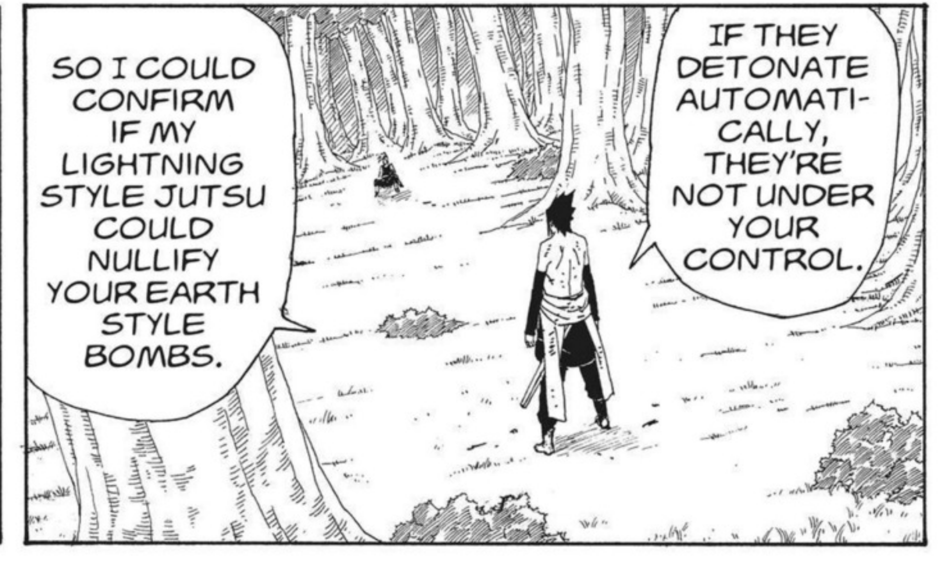

BUT I WASN'T SURE. MAYBE YOU DIDN'T DETONATE THEM ON PURPOSE...
...BECAUSE SOME HAD LANDED NEAR YOUR PARTNER.
THUP
THACK
THACK
THACK


YOU MEAN YOU COULDN'T TELL IF THEY DIDN'T GO OFF BECAUSE OF YOUR CHIDORI...
...OR BECAUSE OF ME, HUH.
I SEE... SO YOU THEN TESTED YOUR THEORY OUT ON THE LAND MINES?

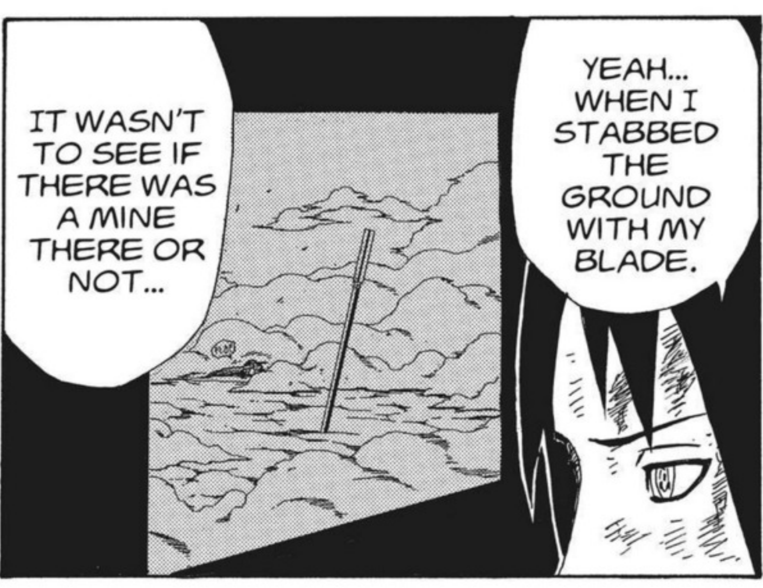

THAT'S RIGHT.


YOU SAID YOURSELF THE LAND MINES WERE RIGGED TO BLOW AUTOMATICALLY.
THE GROUND AROUND YOU IS ALREADY COMPLETELY SEEDED WITH MINES...
...ALL SET TO AUTOMATICALLY DETONATE UPON CONTACT.


READ THIS WAY

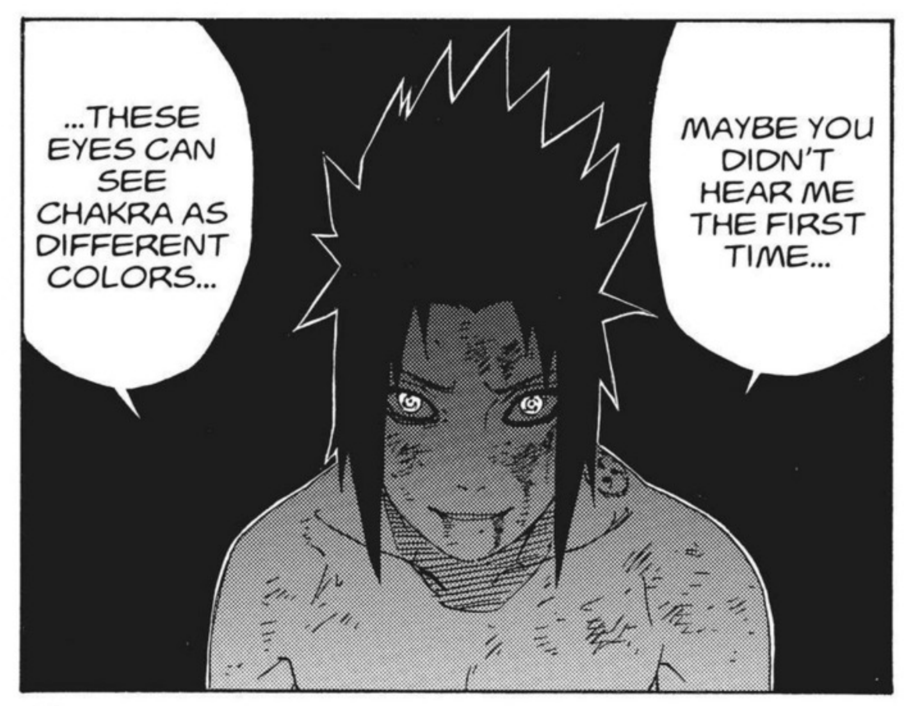

IF THEY DETONATE AUTOMATI-CALLY, THEY'RE NOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL.
SO I COULD CONFIRM IF MY LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU COULD NULLIFY YOUR EARTH STYLE BOMBS.


A-AHH...

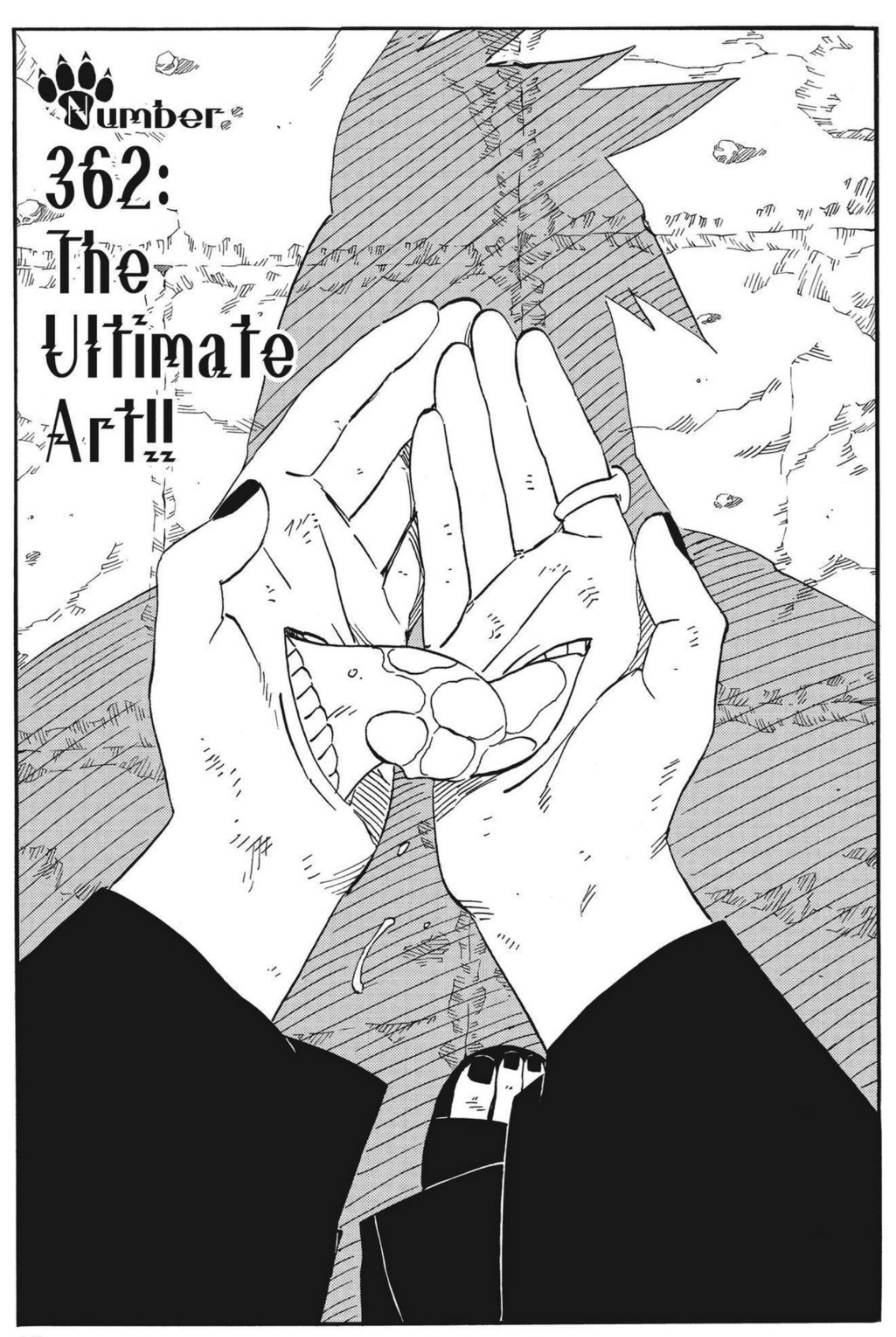

YEAH... WHEN I STABBED THE GROUND WITH MY BLADE.
IT WASN'T TO SEE IF THERE WAS A MINE THERE OR NOT...


I WAS TESTING MY HYPOTH-ESIS...
...BY RUNNING MY CHIDORI-CHARGED BLADE THROUGH A MINE I KNEW WAS THERE.
BZZ


BUT... HOW...?!
HOW DID YOU KNOW THE EXACT LOCA-TIONS OF THE MINES?!

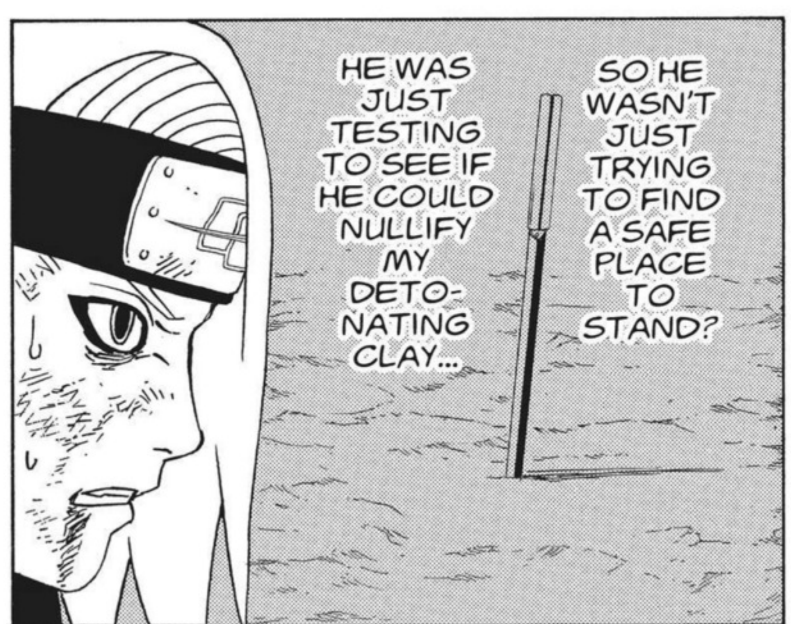

MAYBE YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME THE FIRST TIME...
...THESE EYES CAN SEE CHAKRA AS DIFFERENT COLORS...


BZZ...
BZ...

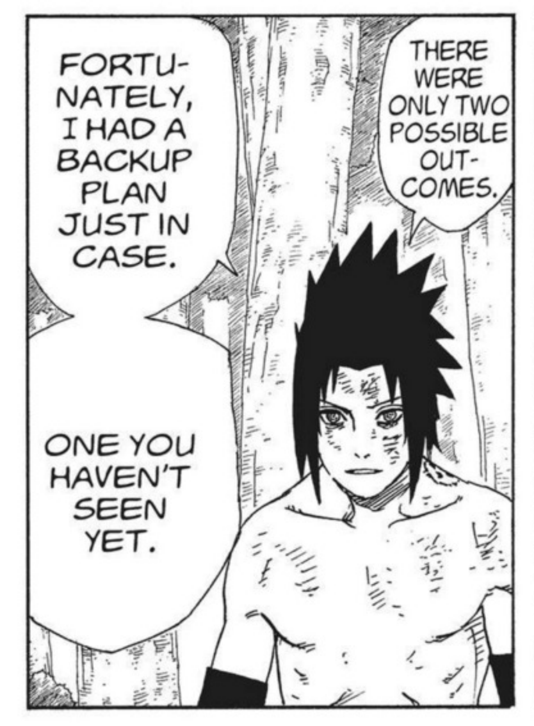

Number 362: The Ultimate Art!!



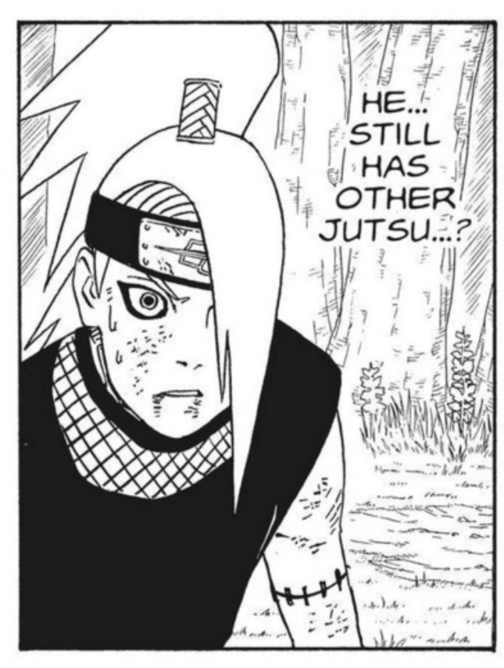

YOU **SAW** WHERE THE MINES HAD BEEN PLACED...?

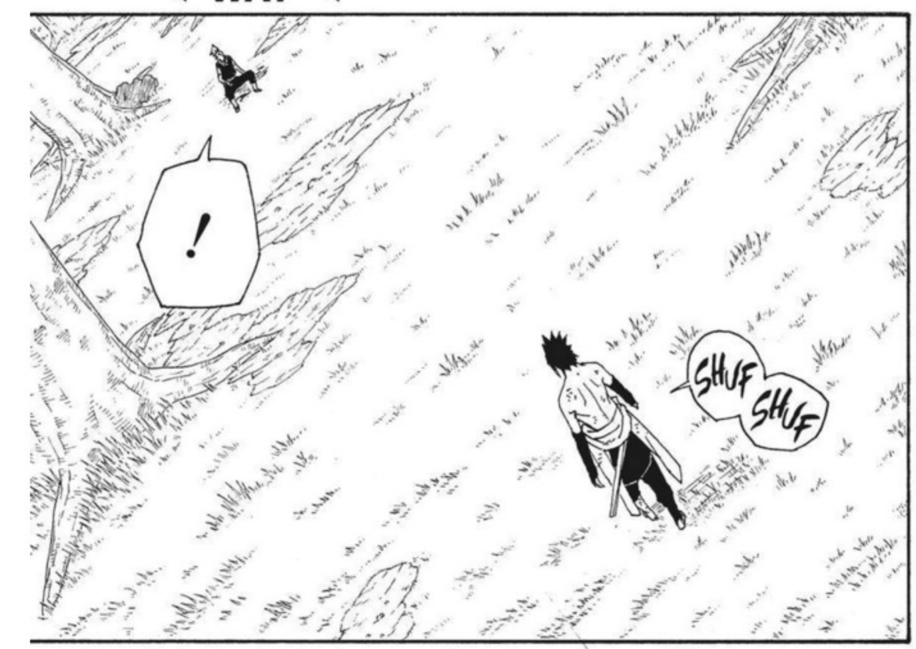

SO HE WASN'T JUST TRYING TO FIND A SAFE PLACE TO STAND?
HE WAS JUST TESTING TO SEE IF HE COULD NULLIFY MY DETO-NATING CLAY...

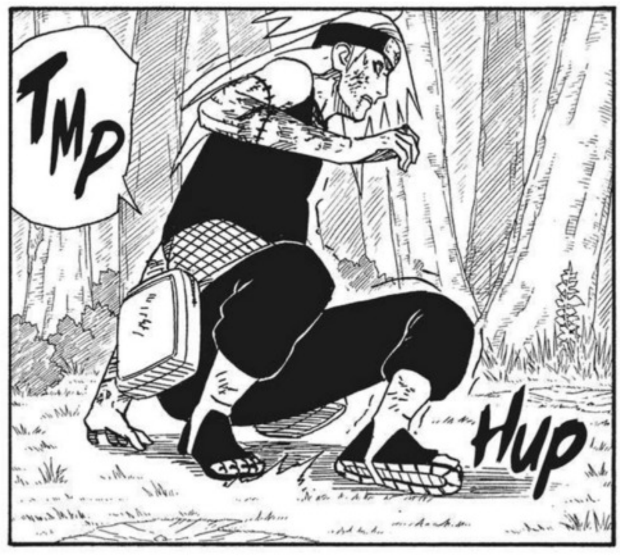

BUT WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF THE MINE...
...HAD STAYED ACTIVE AND WENT OFF?

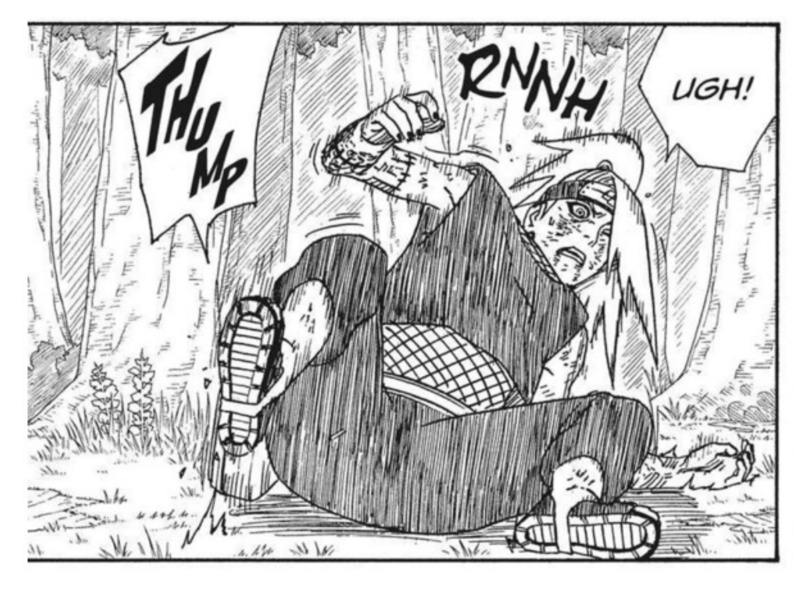

THERE WERE ONLY TWO POSSIBLE OUT-COMES.
FORTU-NATELY, I HAD A BACKUP PLAN JUST IN CASE.
ONE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YET.

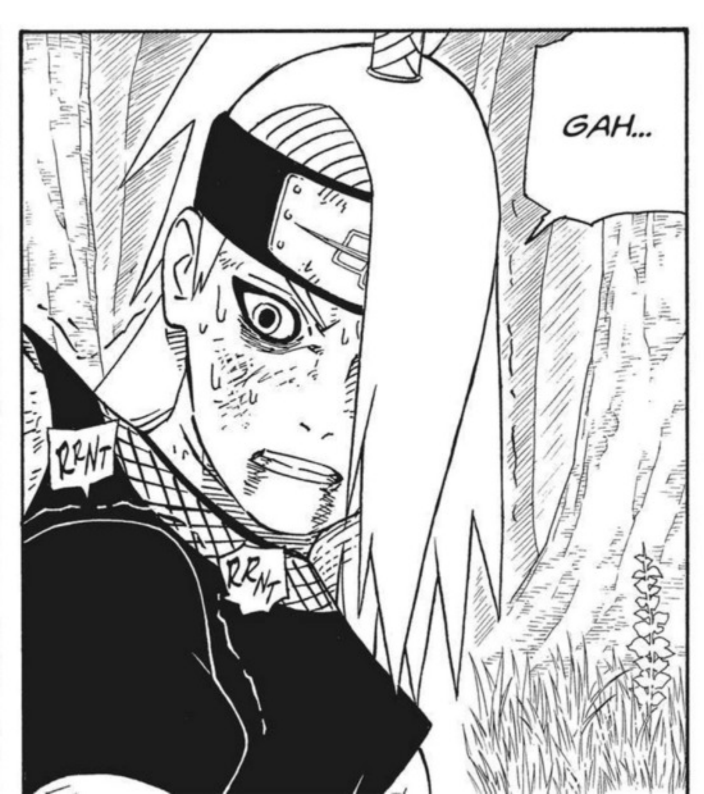

READ
THIS
WAY


HE... STILL HAS OTHER JUTSU...?


!
SHUF
SHUF

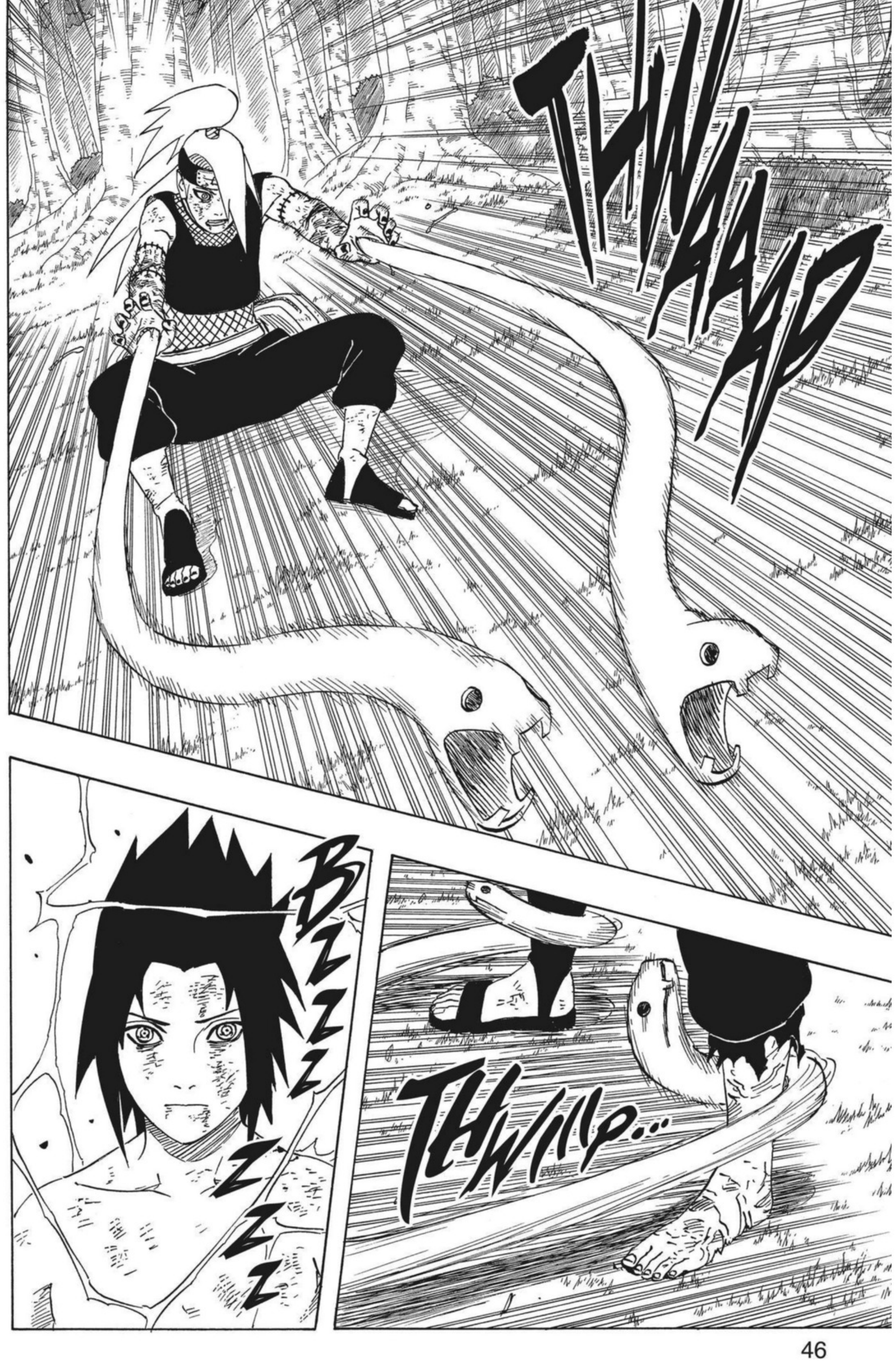

TMP
HUP


UGH!
RNNH
THUMP


GAH...
RRNT
RRNT


AGAIN... WHERE IS ITACHI?
KRUNCH



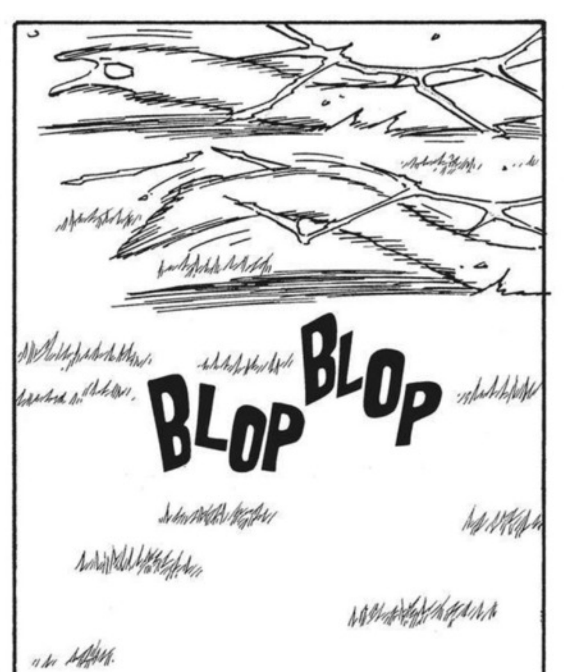

THWAAAP
BZZZZZZZZZ
THWIIIP...



BZZZAK

!

BZZZZZZ
SNAP
SNAP

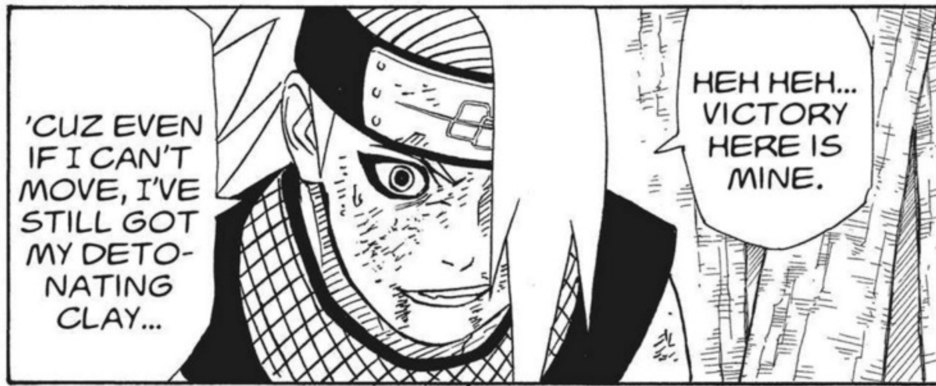


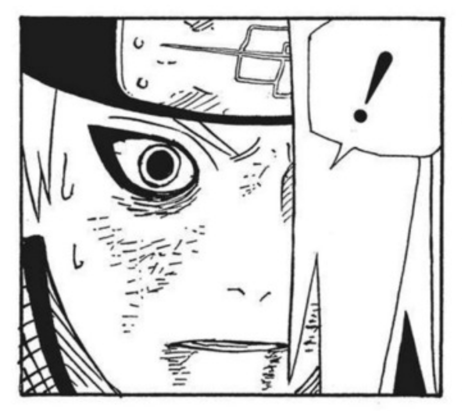




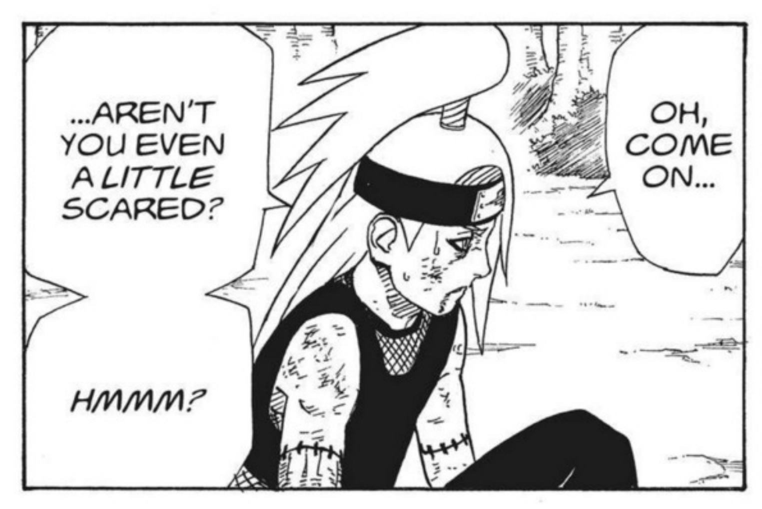

HUF
HUF
HUF


HEH... YOU TALK TOUGH, BUT YOU'RE ON YOUR LAST LEGS TOO.
YOUR CHAKRA TOOK A BIG HIT RIGHT THERE, *HMMM?*
HUF
HUF


HEH HEH... VICTORY HERE IS MINE.
'CUZ EVEN IF I CAN'T MOVE, I'VE STILL GOT MY DETO-NATING CLAY...

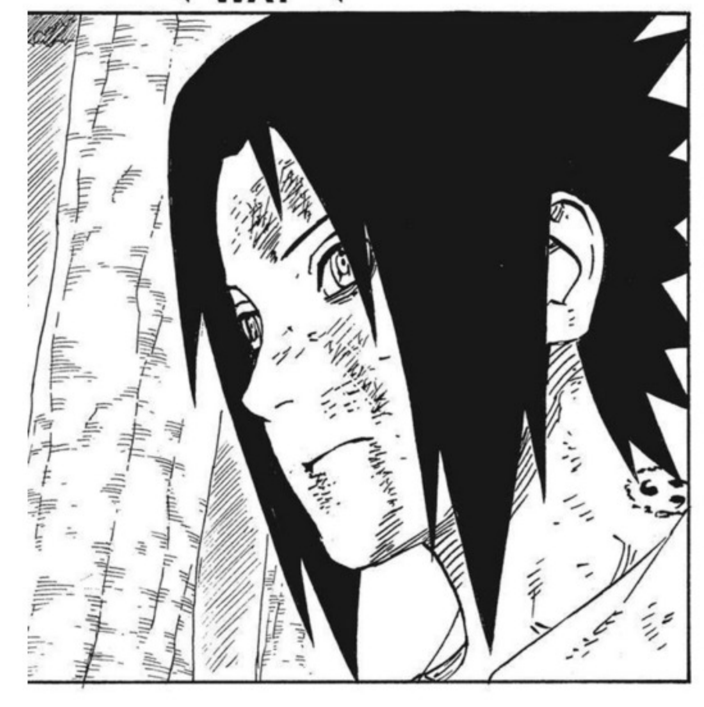

!

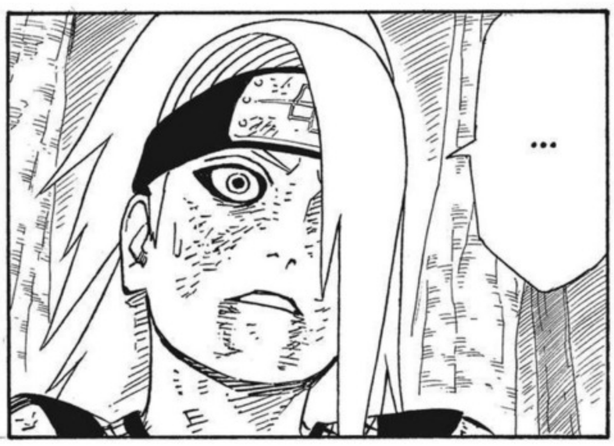

VWEEN
HUF
HUF


OH, COME ON...
...AREN'T YOU EVEN A *LITTLE* SCARED?
HMMM?

READ THIS WAY

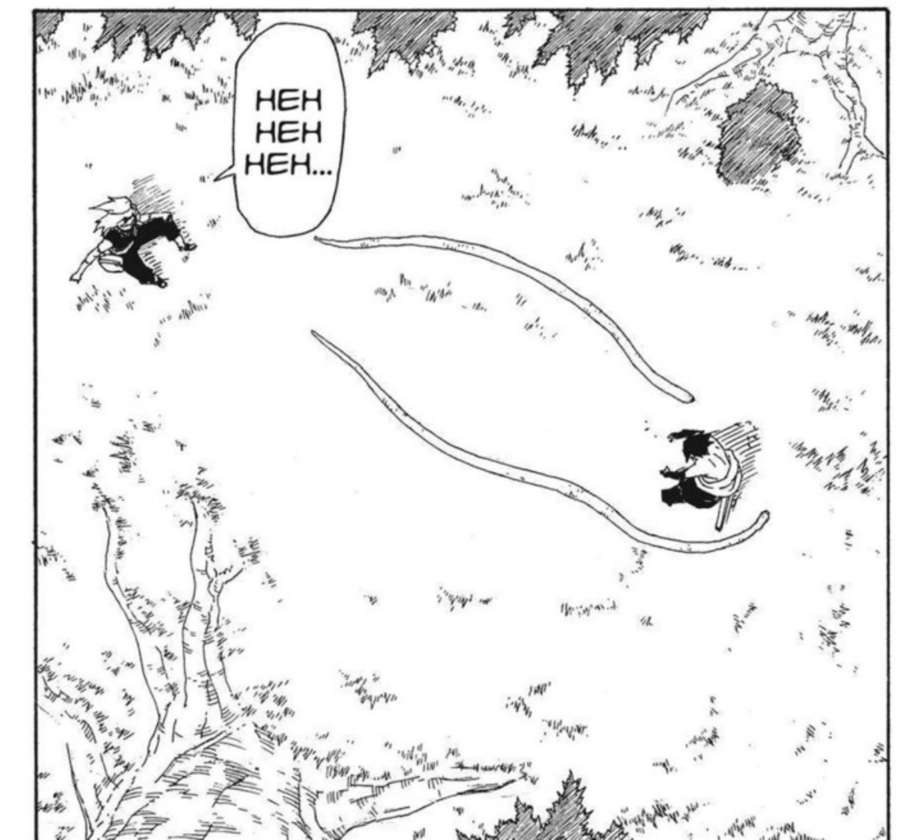








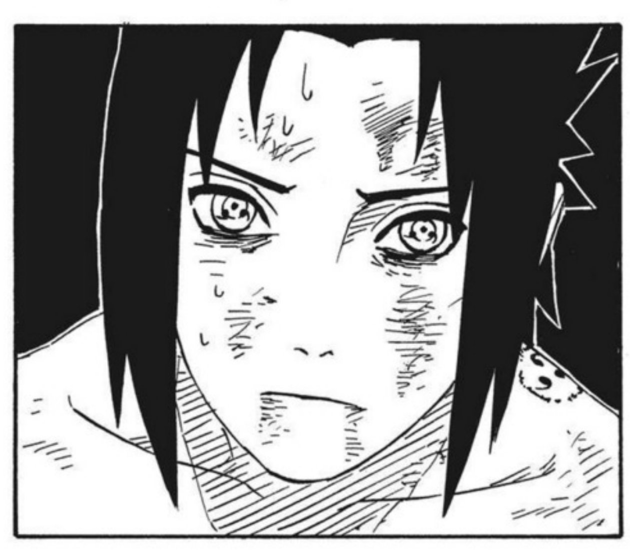


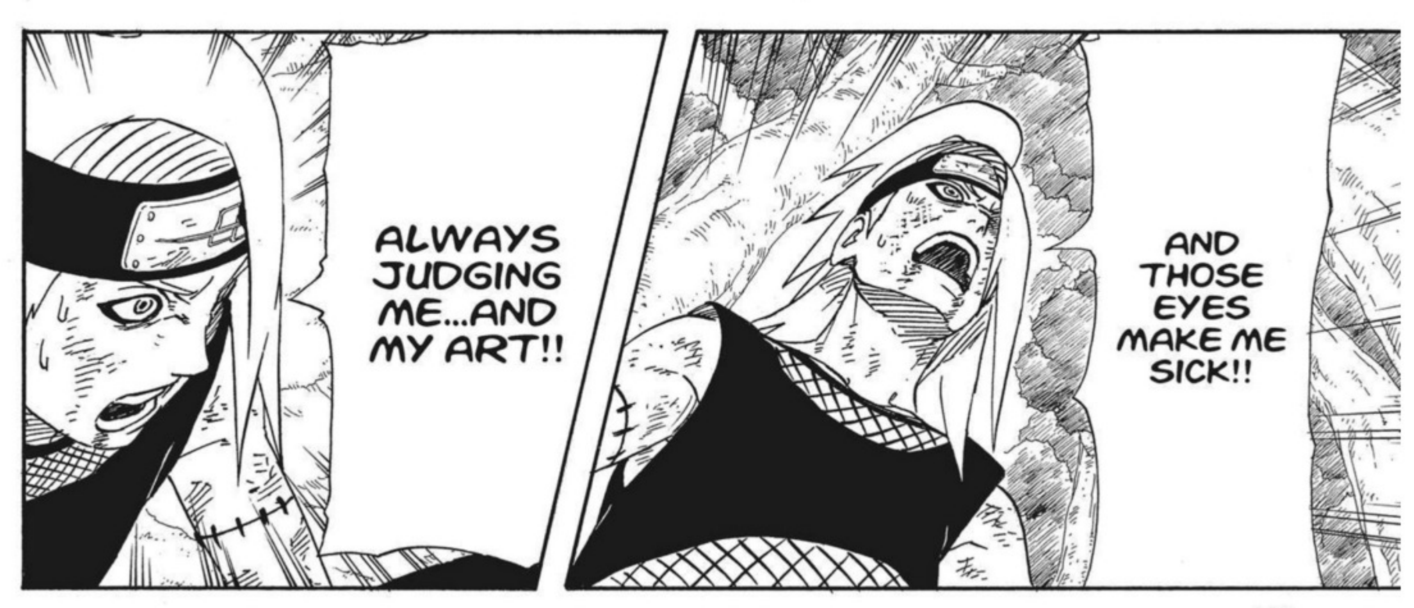


THAT'S WHAT ANNOYS ME ABOUT YOU THE MOST!!

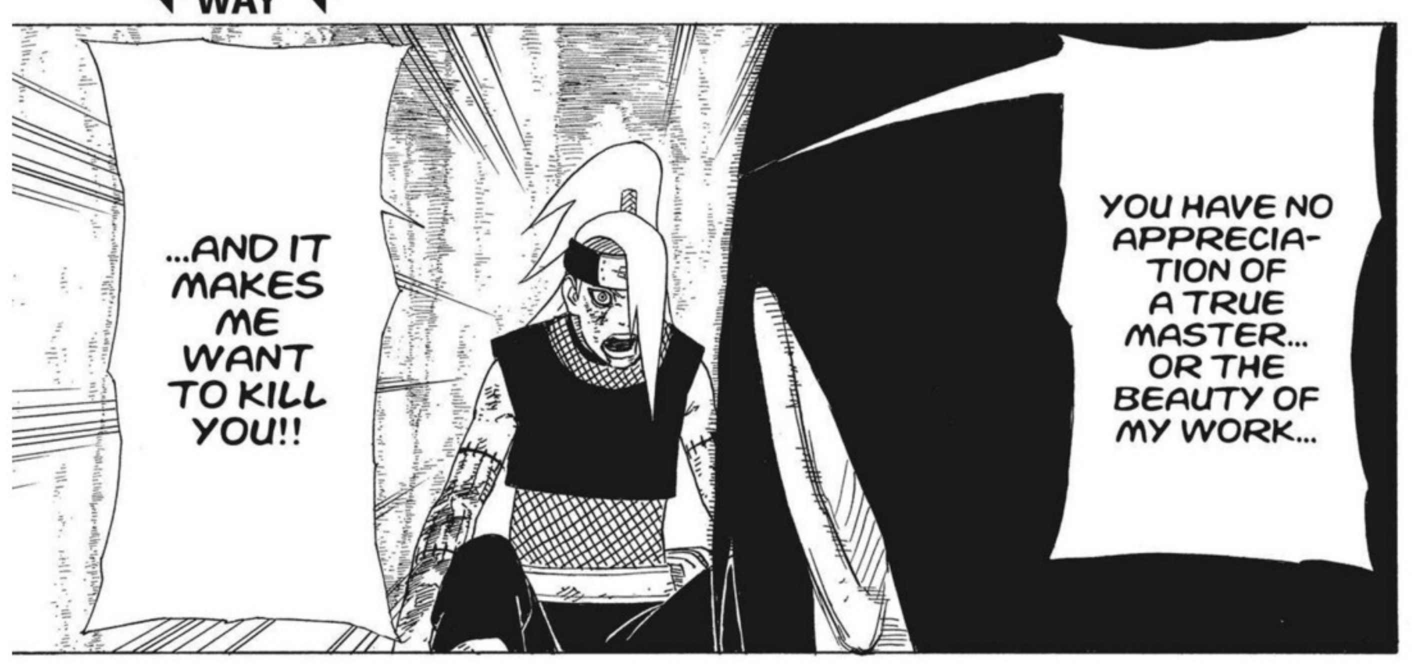
BOTH OF YOU UCHIHA BOYS!!!



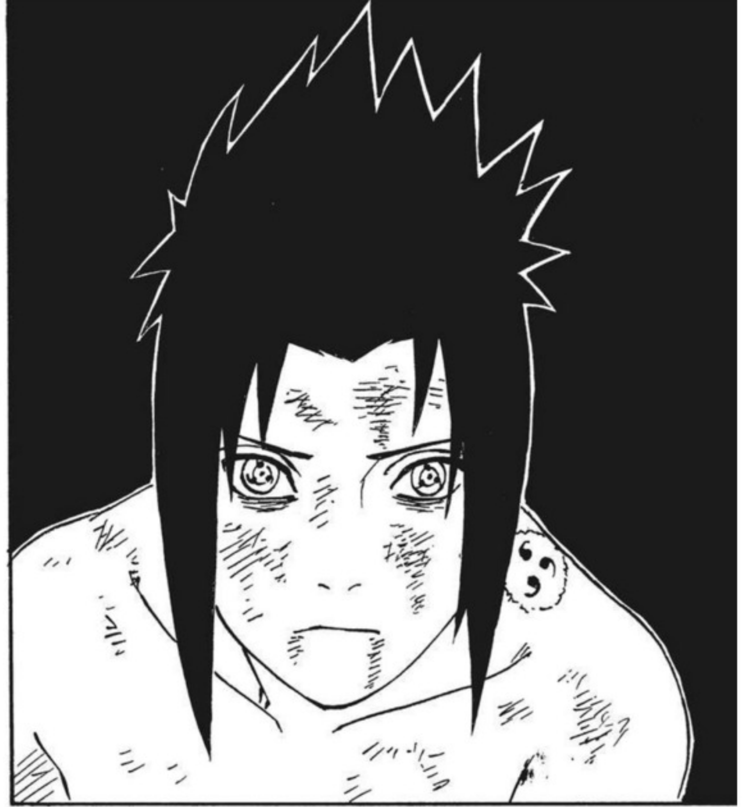


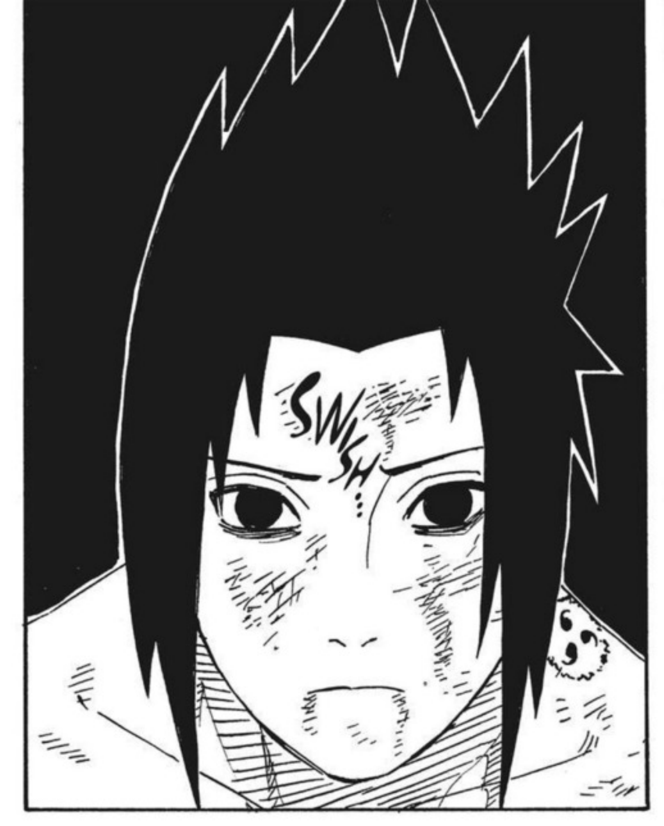






HUF...
HUF...
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY CARE LESS ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE ITACHI IS.
SNAP
NNNH NNNH

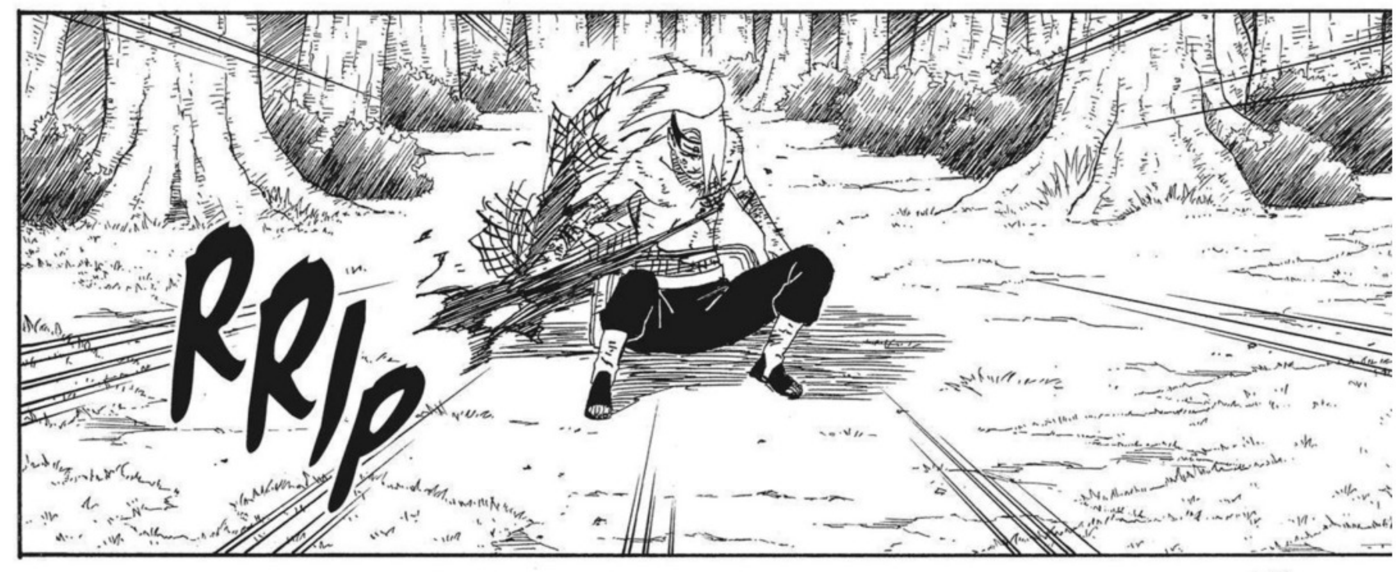


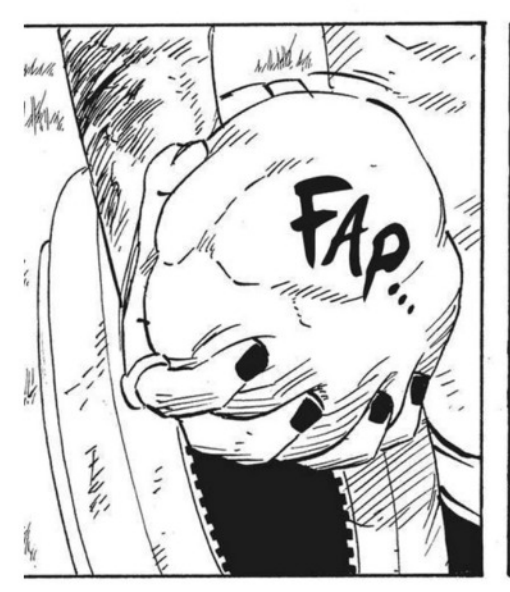

SWISH


...YOU'VE EVEN RETRACTED YOUR SHARINGAN...
...IS THAT HOW LITTLE YOU FEAR ME...?


KRRK

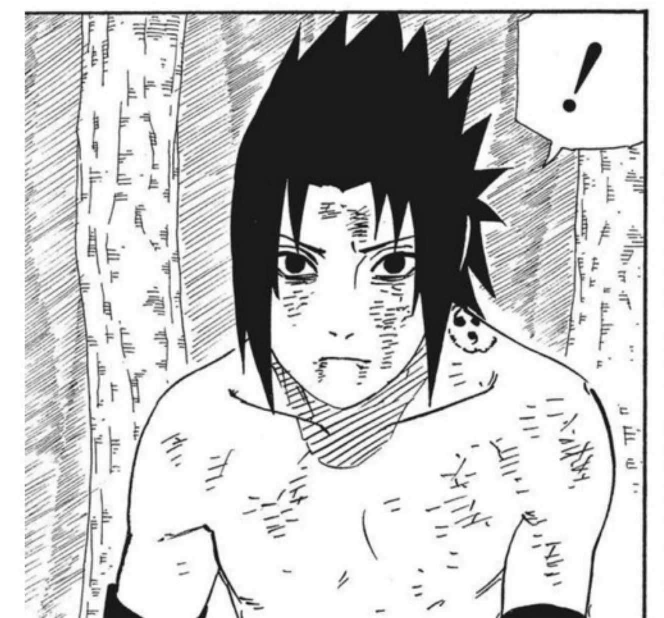

!


RRIP


FAP...


SNAP

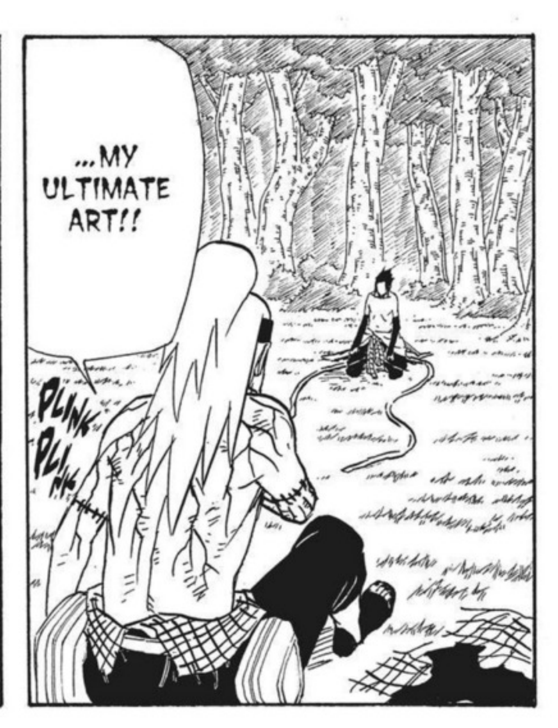

GNASH GNASH


!


OW!
RRRIP...

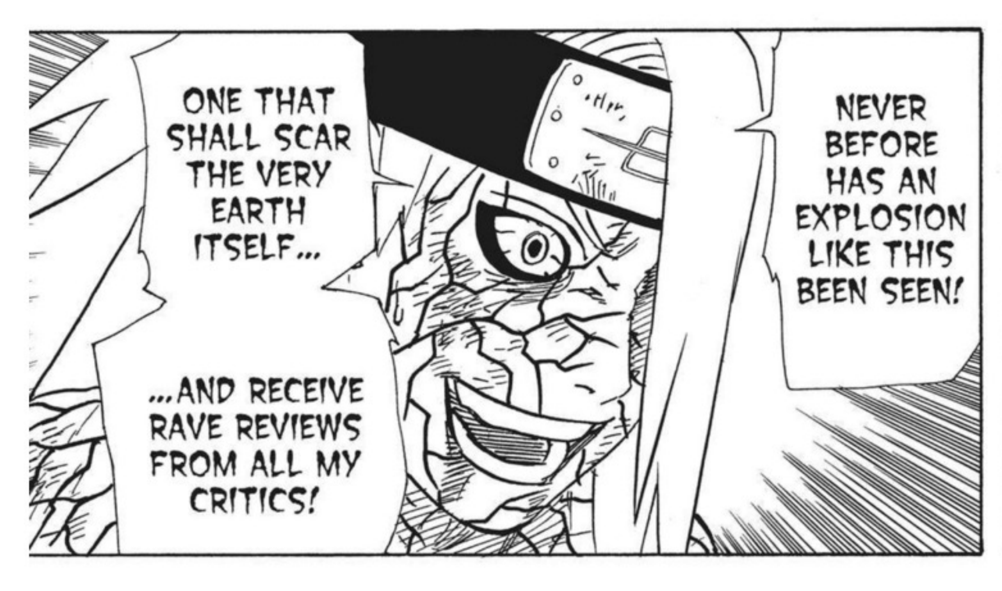

BLA
RRGH
!
BE-HOLD ...
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP


READ
THIS
WAY


...MY ULTIMATE ART!!
PLINK
PLINK


PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
I SHALL DETONATE MYSELF!!


...HE'S INSANE ...!

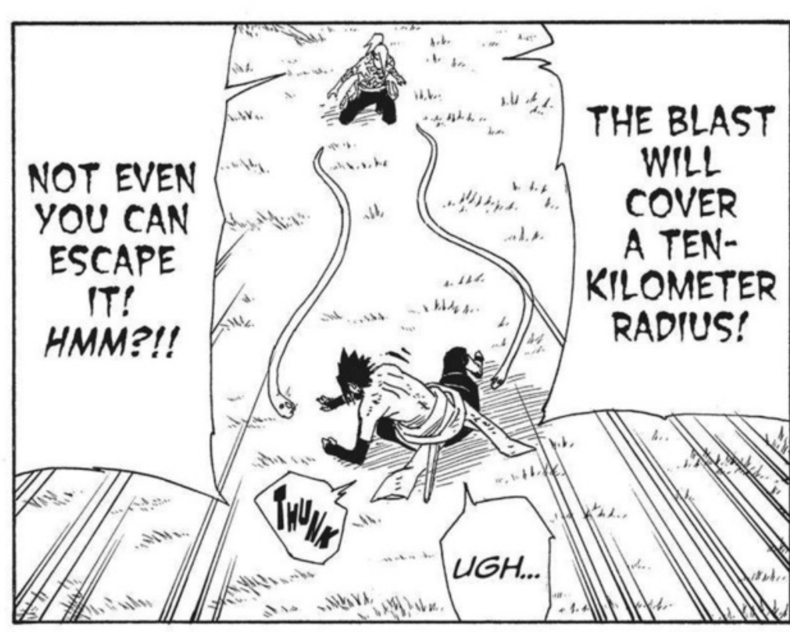

NEVER BEFORE HAS AN EXPLOSION LIKE THIS BEEN SEEN!
ONE THAT SHALL SCAR THE VERY EARTH ITSELF...
...AND RECEIVE RAVE REVIEWS FROM ALL MY CRITICS!

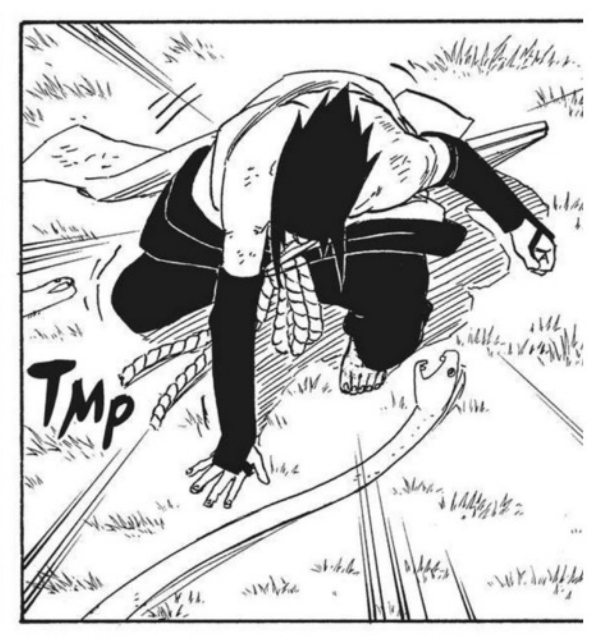

FOR WITH MY DEATH—
I SHALL BECOME ART!

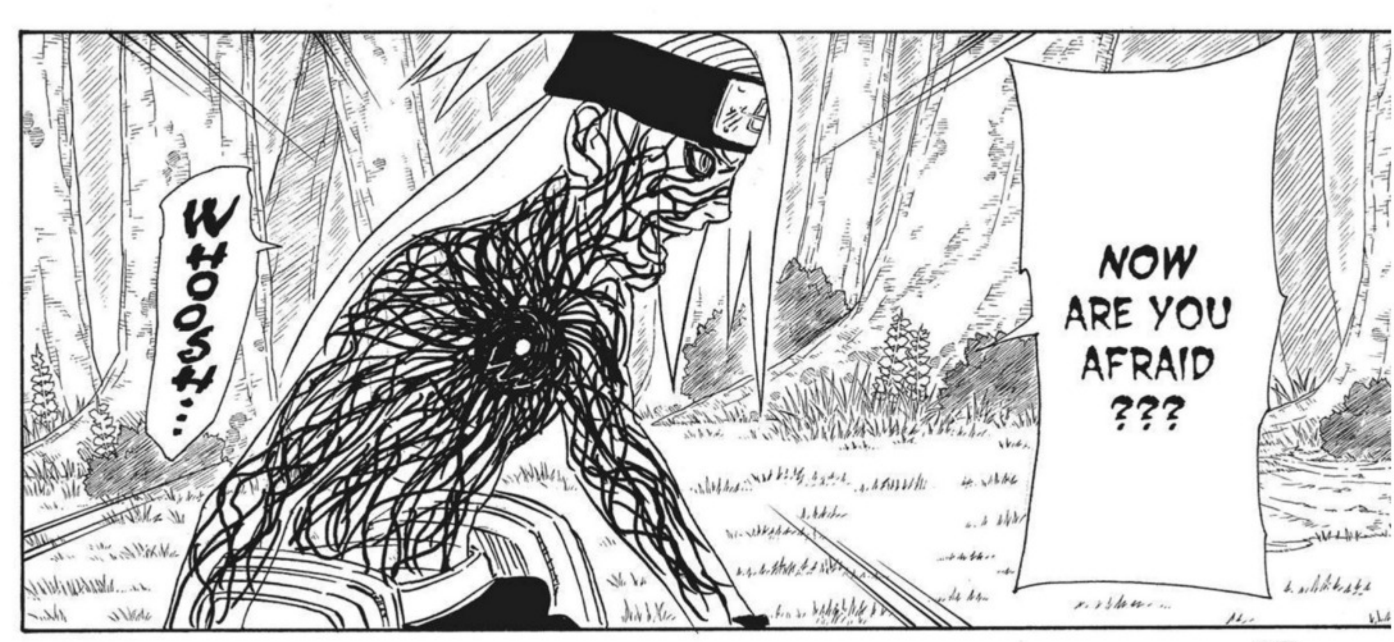

SORRY, TOBI...


!


AND WHEN I DO, UCHIHA SASUKE...
...YOU WILL FINALLY DIE!!

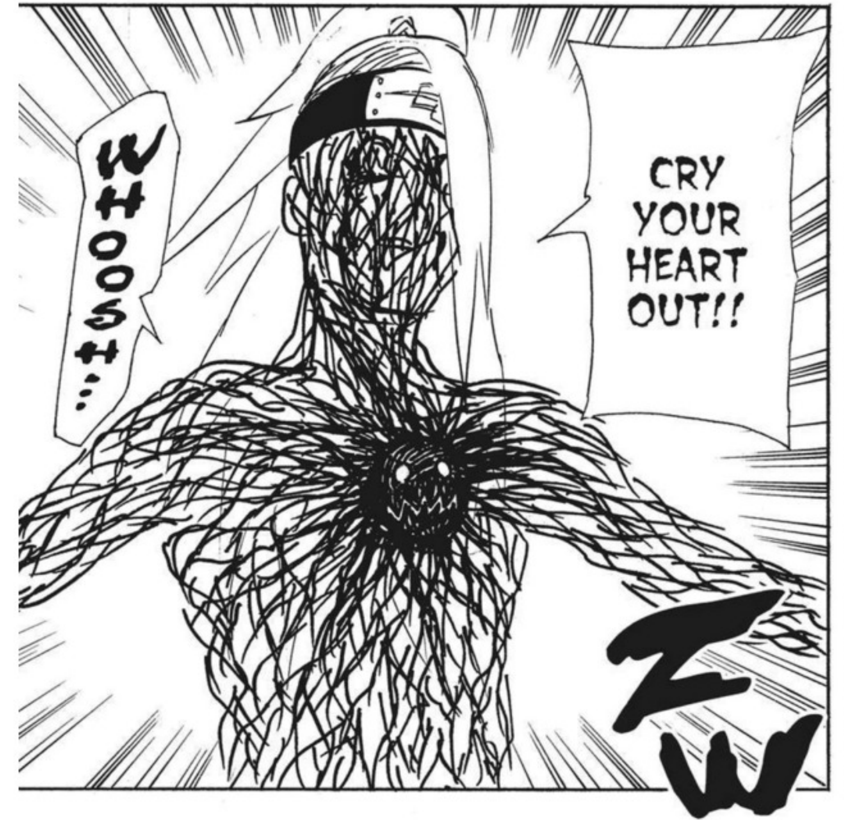

THE BLAST WILL COVER A TEN-KILOMETER RADIUS!
NOT EVEN YOU CAN ESCAPE IT! HMM?!!
THUNK
UGH...


TMP

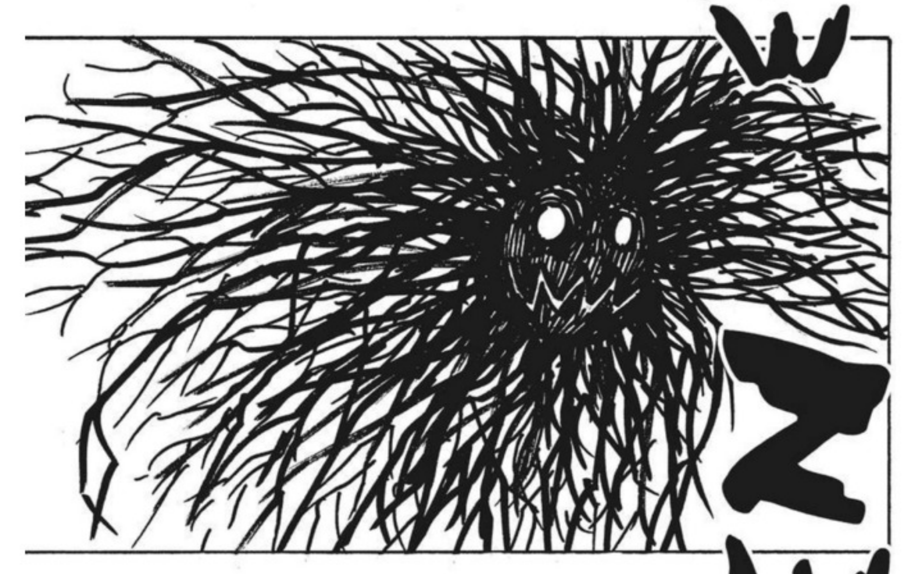

NOW ARE YOU AFRAID ???
WHOOSH...

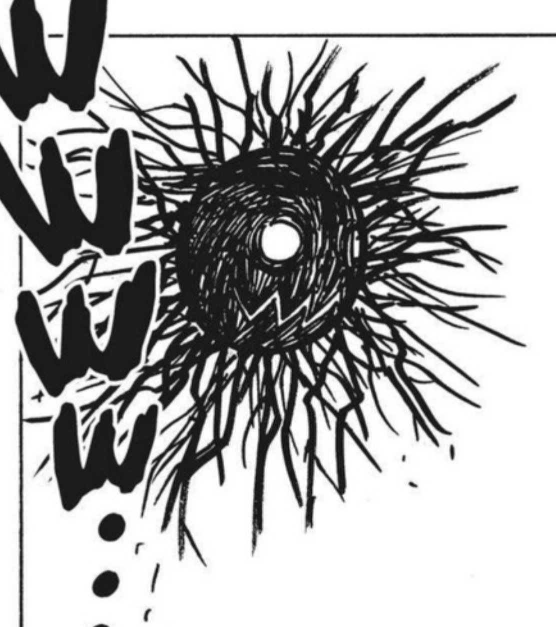

READ THIS WAY


COWER IN AWE!!
RECOIL IN DESPAIR!!
...

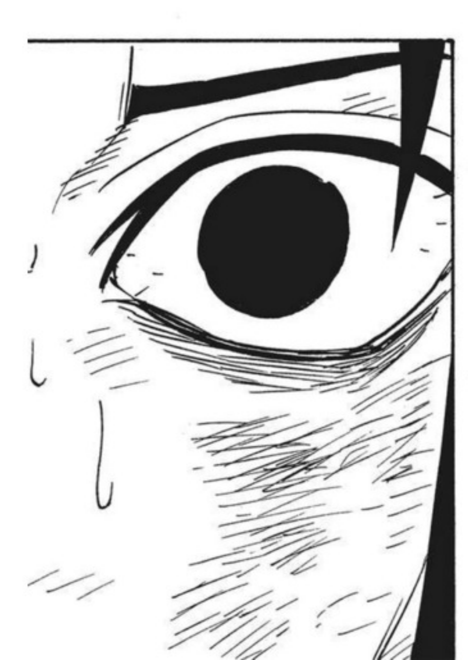

CRY YOUR HEART OUT!!
WHOOSH...


BECAUSE MY ART...






KRAKLE
KRAKLE




...IS AN EXPLO-SION !!!
BOOM


KA


BZZZZZZZ



Sasuke's Death...!!

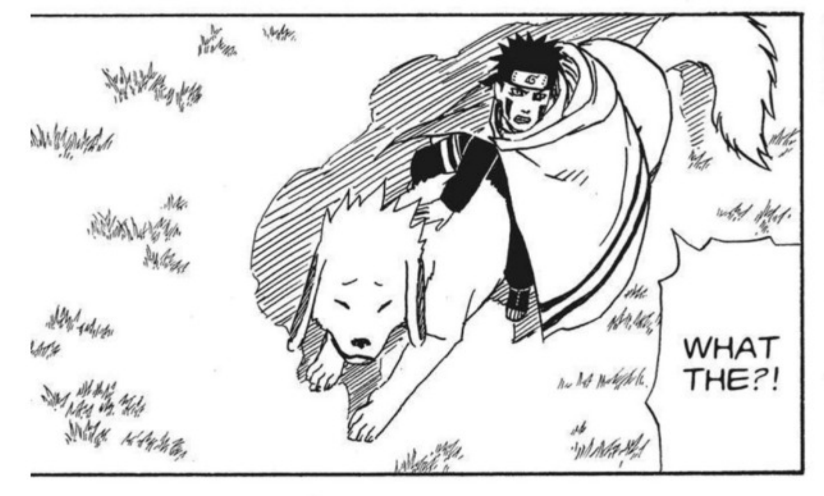

UGH!
WHA...!
FSSSH
B-B-B-BOOM



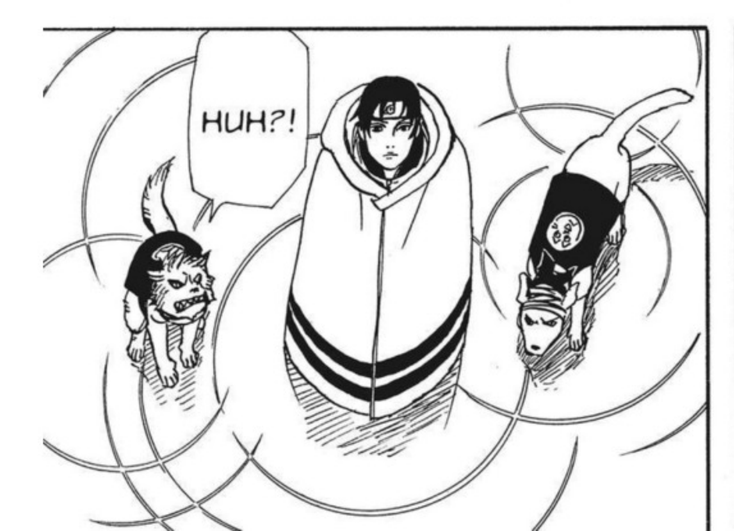
WHAT IS THAT ?!

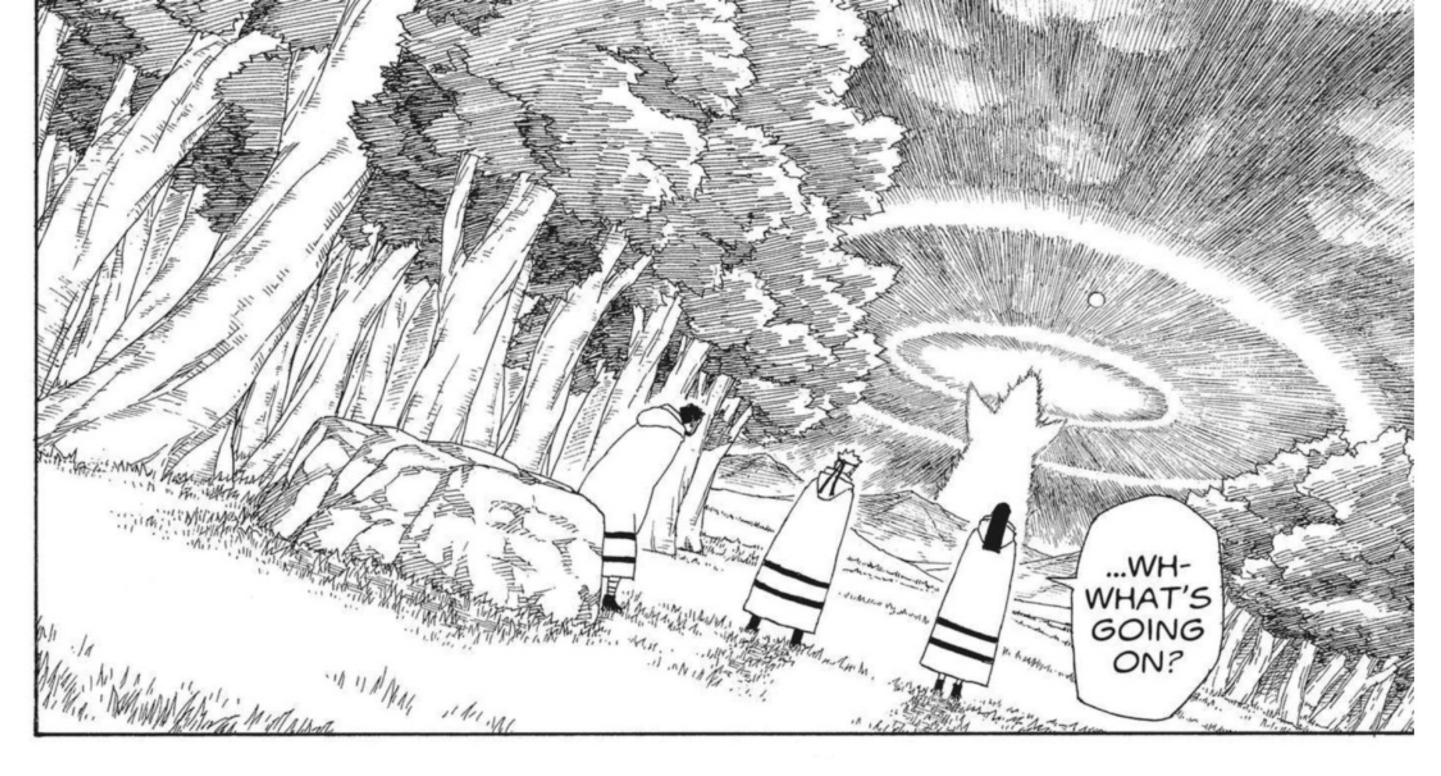
KAKASHI ?





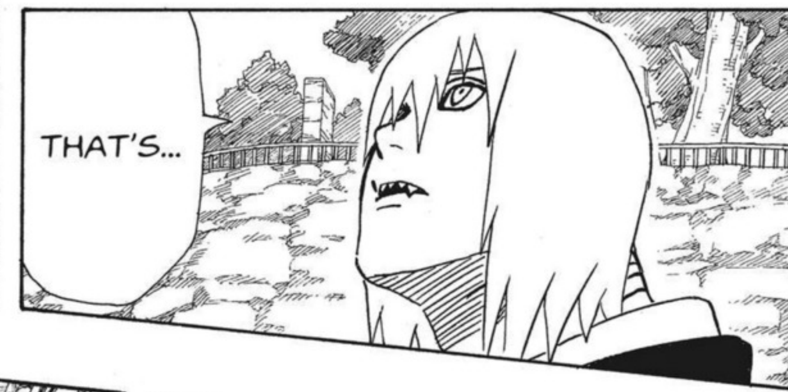


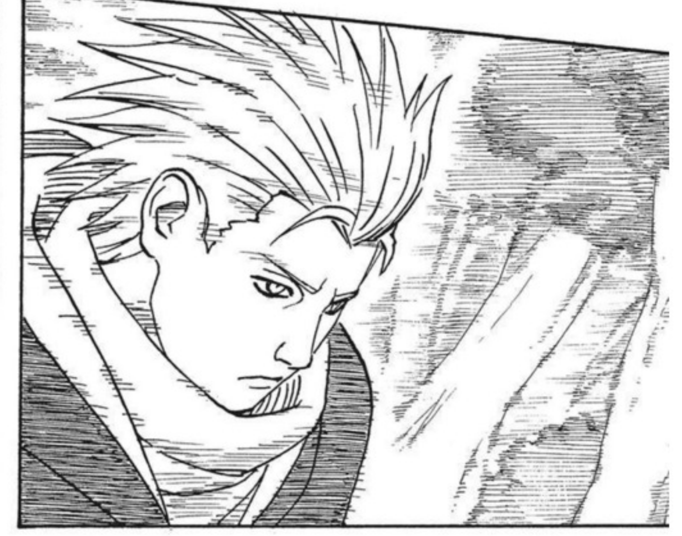



...WH-
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?


LET'S
CHECK
IT OUT!




THAT'S...




THAT'S
ABOUT
WHERE
SASUKE
IS...!

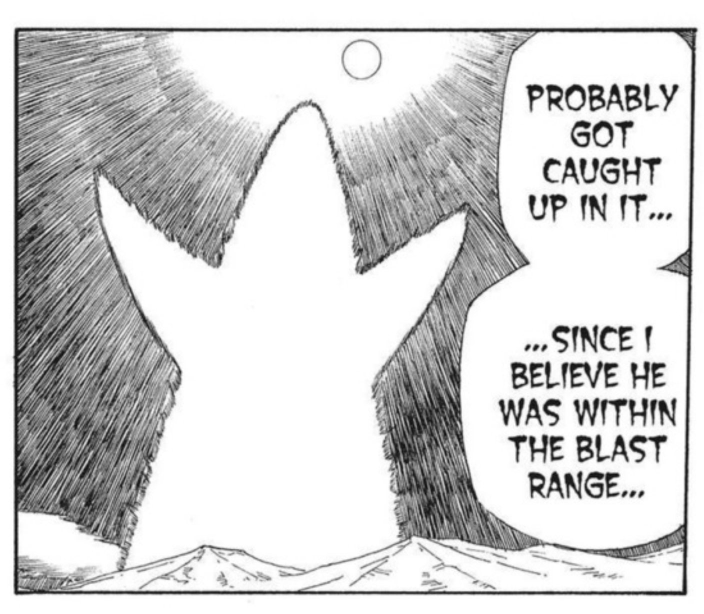

READ
THIS
WAY




...!
I CAN'T SENSE SASUKE'S CHAKRA...!!


...


THAT DEIDARA... HE'S BLOWN HIMSELF UP...
BUT WHAT ABOUT TOBI?


PROBABLY GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT...
...SINCE I BELIEVE HE WAS WITHIN THE BLAST RANGE...


...WHICH IS NEAR OUR RENDEZ-VOUS POINT...
FLAP
OH NO...!

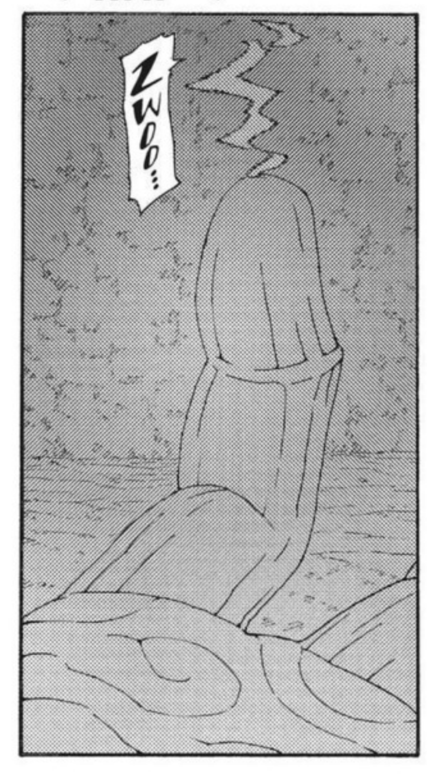

HUP


WHISP...
...JUST AS I FEARED!

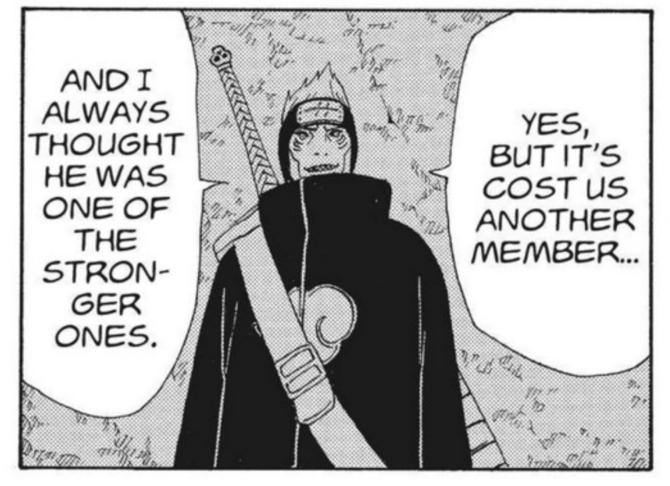

RRRRRUMBLE


READ
THIS
WAY

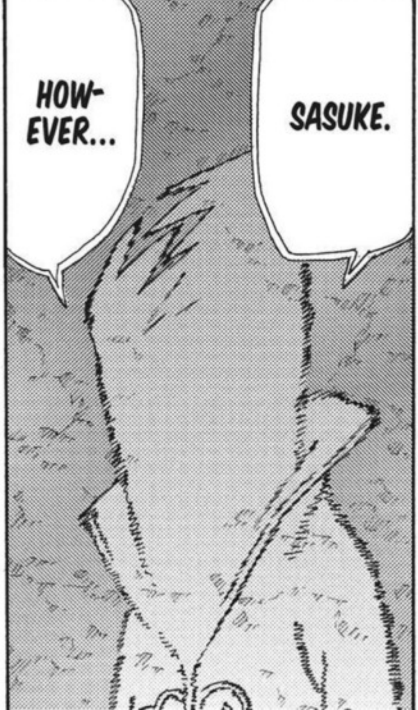


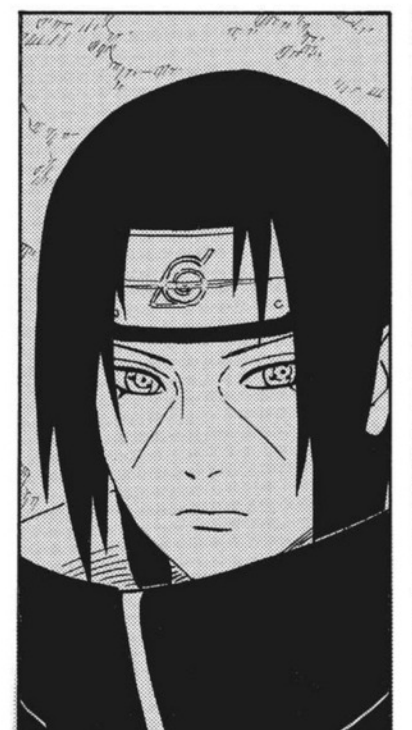

ZWOO...


DEIDARA'S DEAD.
ZWOOO
AT LEAST HE WENT OUT WITH A BANG.


YES, BUT IT'S COST US ANOTHER MEMBER...
AND I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THE STRONGER ONES.


SO WHO DID HIM IN...?
SASUKE, OR THE NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI?


SASUKE.
HOW-EVER...



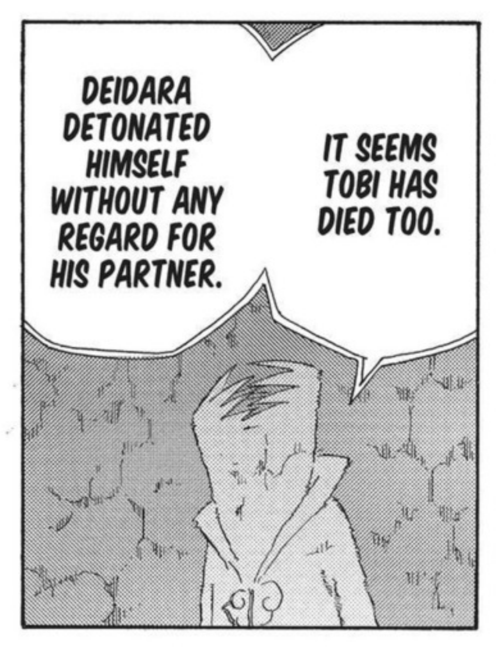
...IT APPEARS SASUKE HAS DIED AS WELL.

...

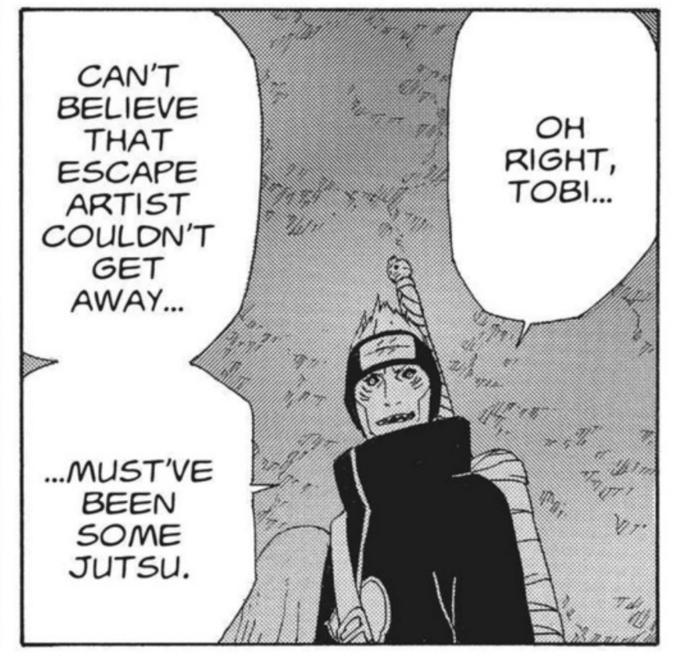
SO DEIDARA TOOK HIM WITH HIM, HUH...







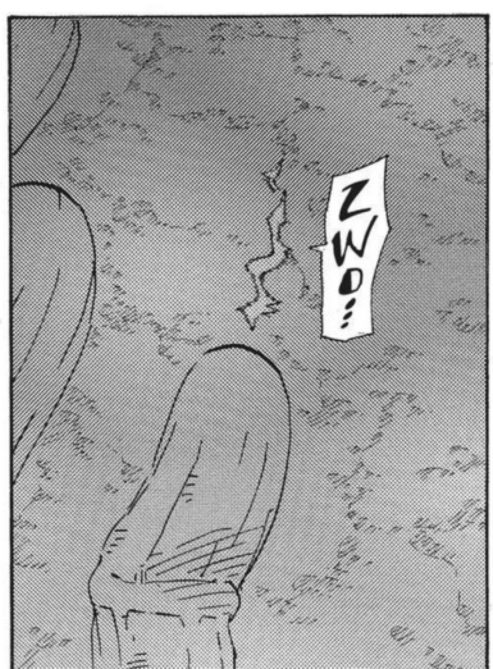

READ
THIS
WAY

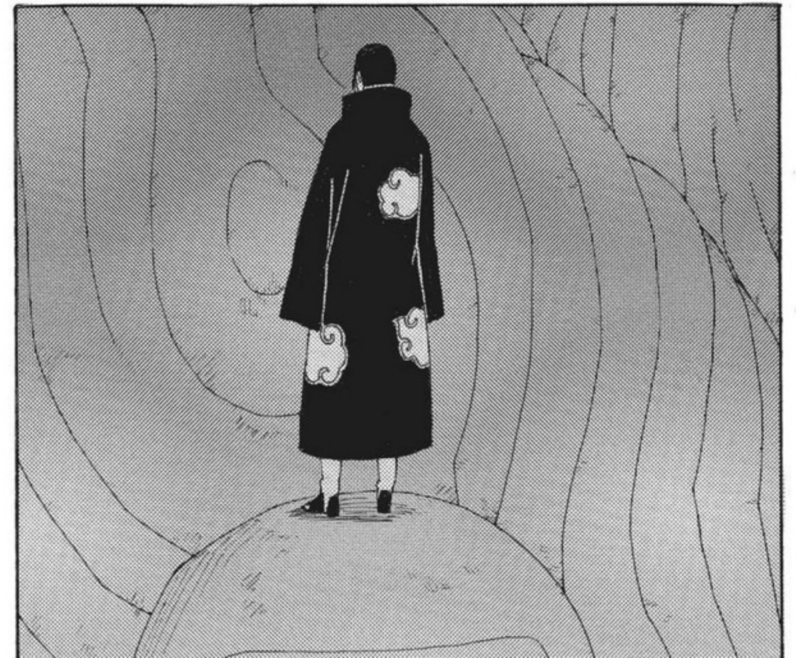

OH RIGHT, TOBI...
CAN'T BELIEVE THAT ESCAPE ARTIST COULDN'T GET AWAY...
...MUST'VE BEEN SOME JUTSU.


NO MATTER... THAT ONE IS EASY ENOUGH TO REPLACE.
THE LOSS OF DEIDARA, HOWEVER, IS UNFORTU-NATE...

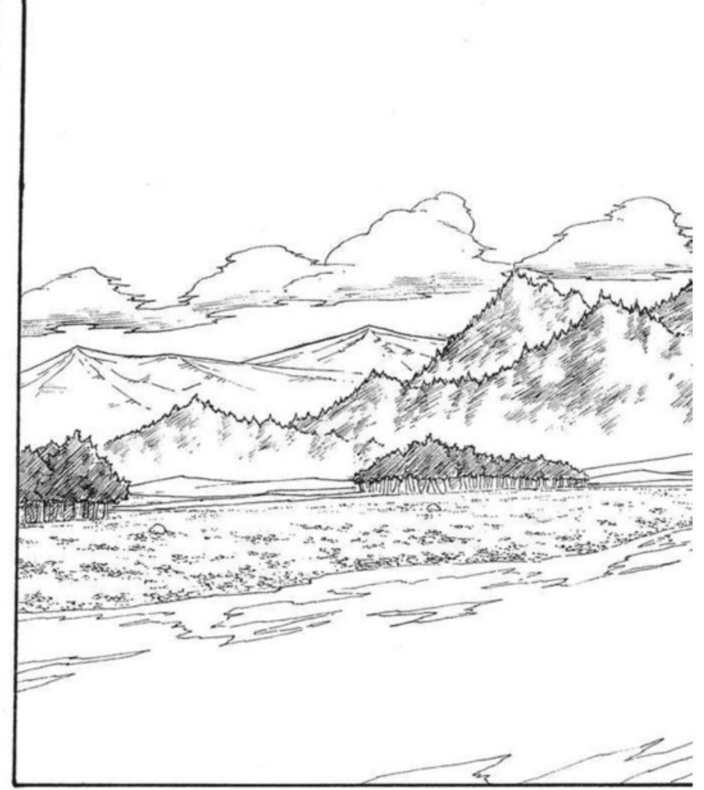

AND YET, TOBI MANAGED TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD OF THIS GLOOMY ORGANIZA-TION...
...SO HE WAS QUITE TALENTED IN HIS OWN RIGHT.

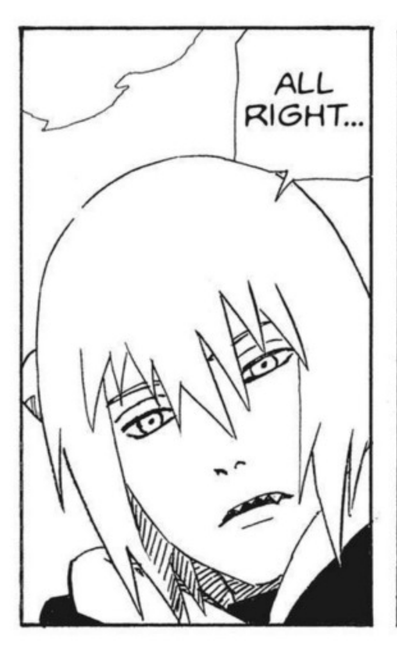

I MUST GO...
LET US TRY TO MOURN DEIDARA QUIETLY.
ZWOO


ZWOO



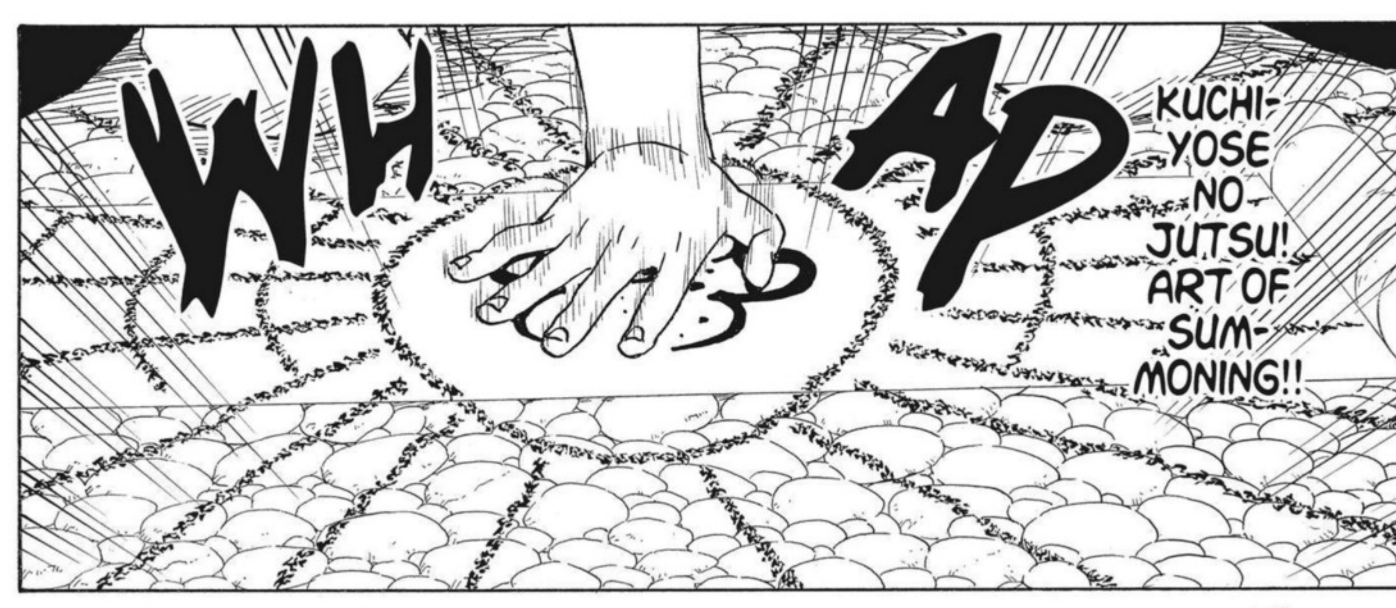

SWISH

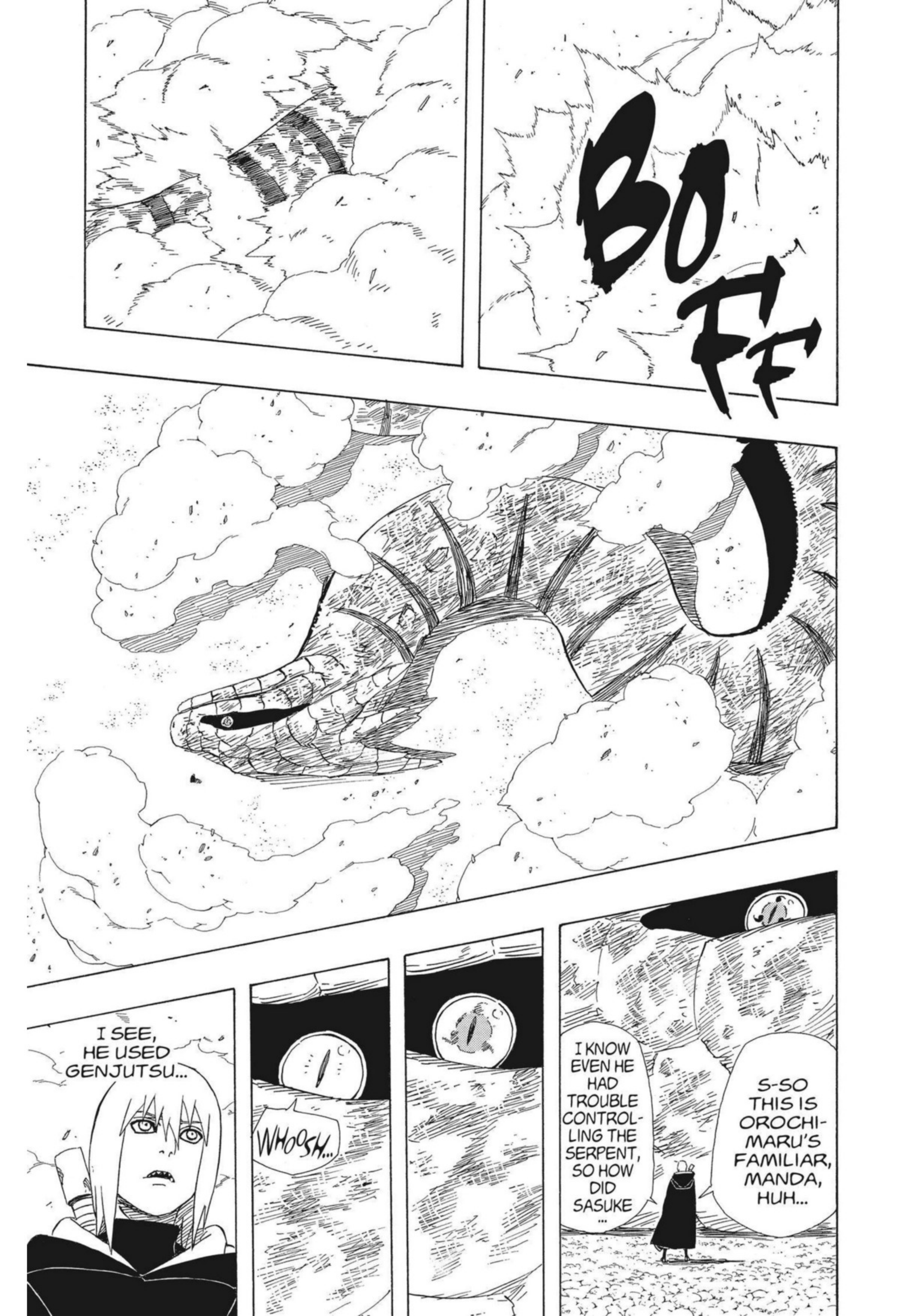



ALL RIGHT...


PLIP-PLOP


POP


WHAP
KUCHI-YOSE NO-JUTSU! ART OF SUM-MONING!!


BOFF
S-SO THIS IS OROCHIMARU'S FAMILIAR, MANDA, HUH...
I KNOW EVEN HE HAD TROUBLE CONTROLLING THE SERPENT, SO HOW DID SASUKE ...
WHOOSH...
I SEE, HE USED GENJUTSU...

UGH...

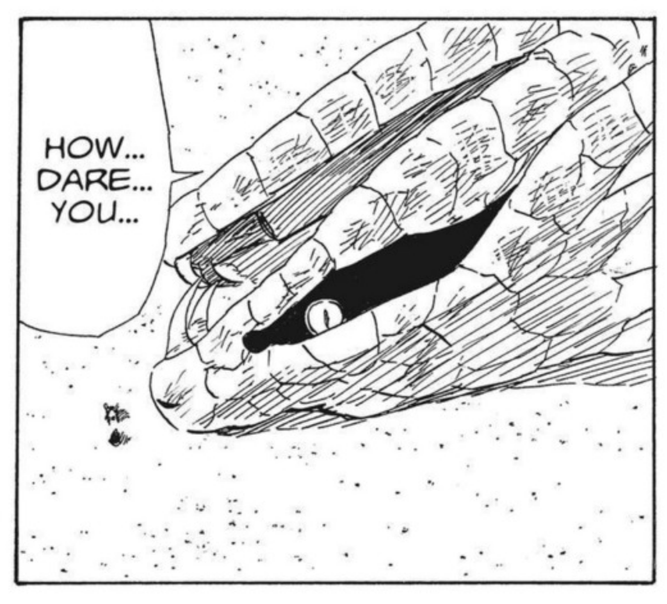

HEY, YOU'RE ALL BEAT UP!
RRRNH
TMP
HUF
HUF

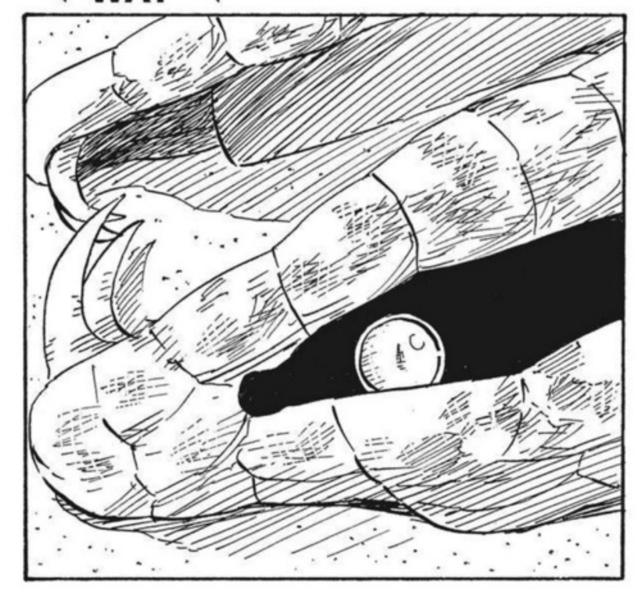

WHO WERE YOU FIGHT-ING?
YOU... USED... ME...
...YOU... INSOLENT STRIP-LING...
SHUP
HUF
HUF


THOSE EYES... YOU... HYPNOTIZED ME... WITH THOSE EYES...
!
HUF
HUF

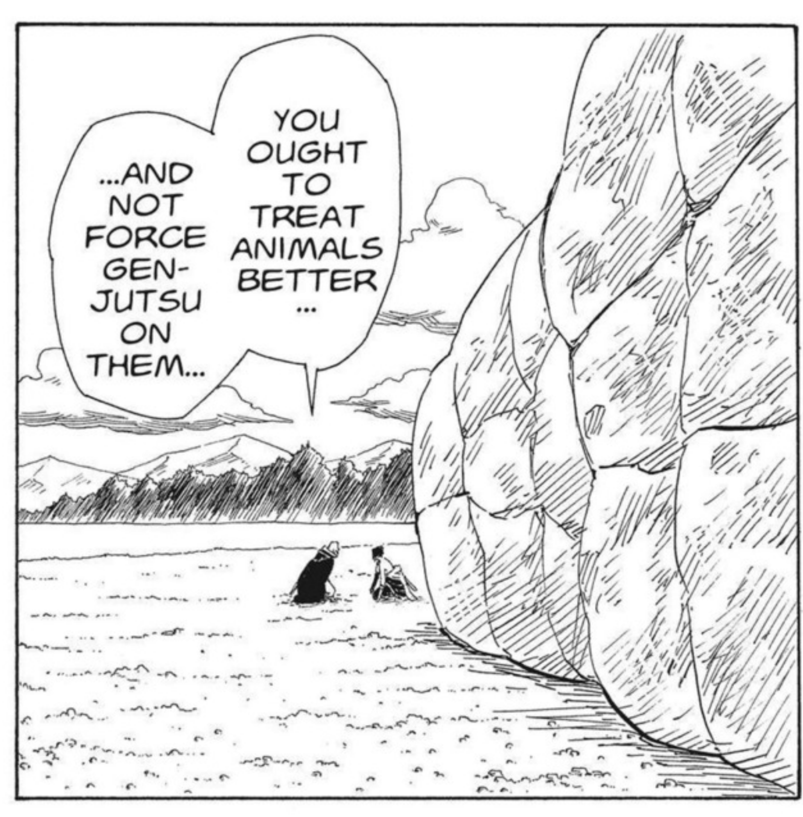

HUF


READ
THIS
WAY


HOW... DARE... YOU...




OH DEAR, HE'S DIED.
WASN'T MANDA ALSO OROCHIMARU'S FAVORITE PET?

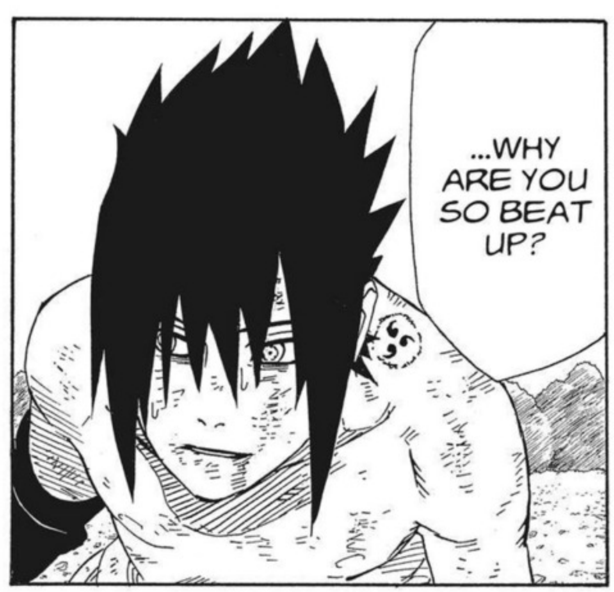

YOU OUGHT TO TREAT ANIMALS BETTER ...
...AND NOT FORCE GENJUTSU ON THEM...

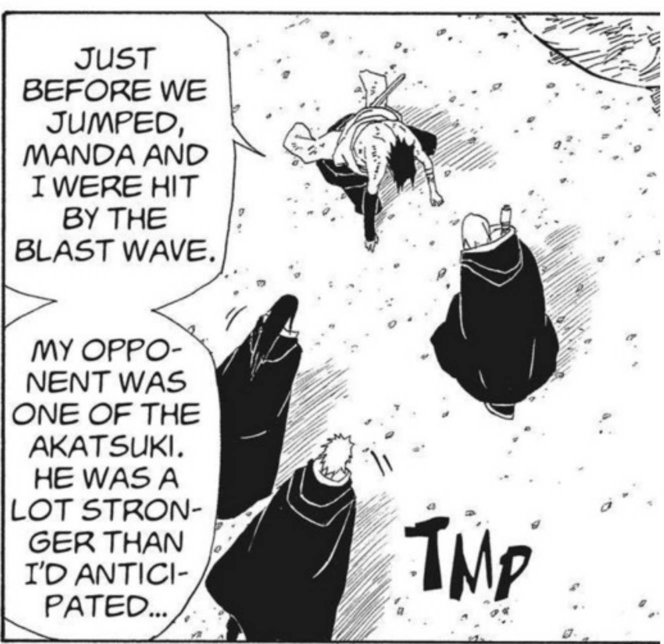

I HAD NO CHOICE ...
THERE WAS NO TIME.


THERE YOU ARE!!
!
!

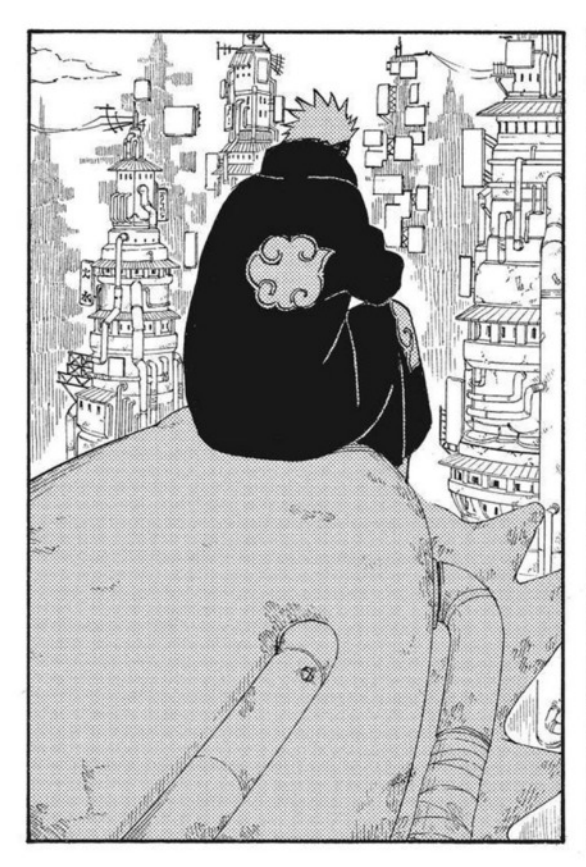

SHOOM
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HERE.
YOUR CHAKRA SUDDENLY DISAP-PEARED! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK...
...BUT I GUESS YOU WERE TELE-PORTING, HUH?


WAIT... IF YOU USED TELEPOR-TATION NINJUTSU TO ESCAPE INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION INSIDE MANDA...


...WHY ARE YOU SO BEAT UP?


JUST BEFORE WE JUMPED, MANDA AND I WERE HIT BY THE BLAST WAVE.
MY OPPO-NENT WAS ONE OF THE AKATSUKI. HE WAS A LOT STRON-GER THAN I'D ANTICI-PATED...
TMP


FAP
WHATEVER. YOU STILL NEED TO TAKE A LITTLE BREAK.
SASUKE ALL CUT UP AND BRUISED IS PRETTY SEXY TOO...

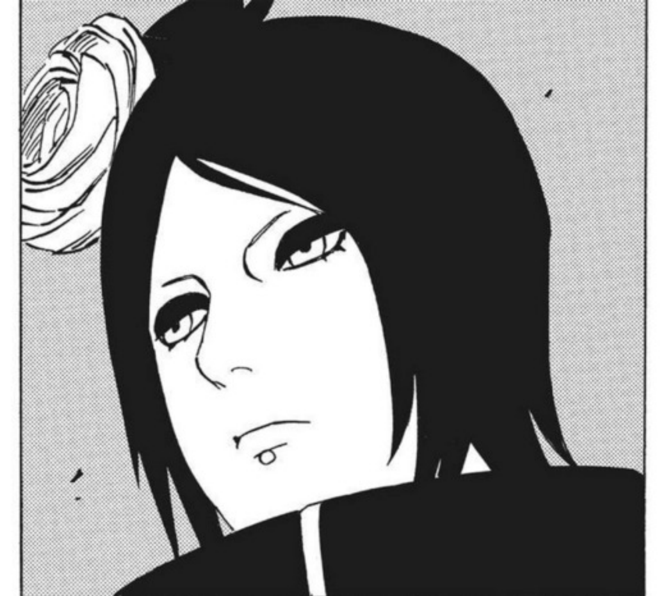

PATHETIC!! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY TOOK DOWN OROCHI-MARU!
OROCHIMARU'S ILLNESS MADE HIM WEAK.
THAT'S ALL...



SHUP

PAIN, COME...
...HE'S HERE.
!


TMP

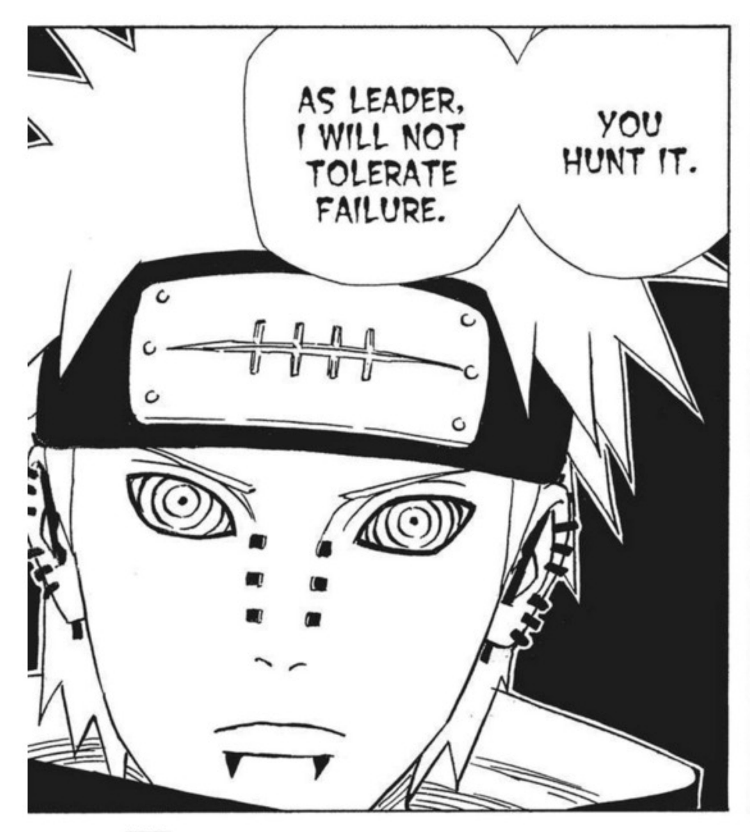

NOD

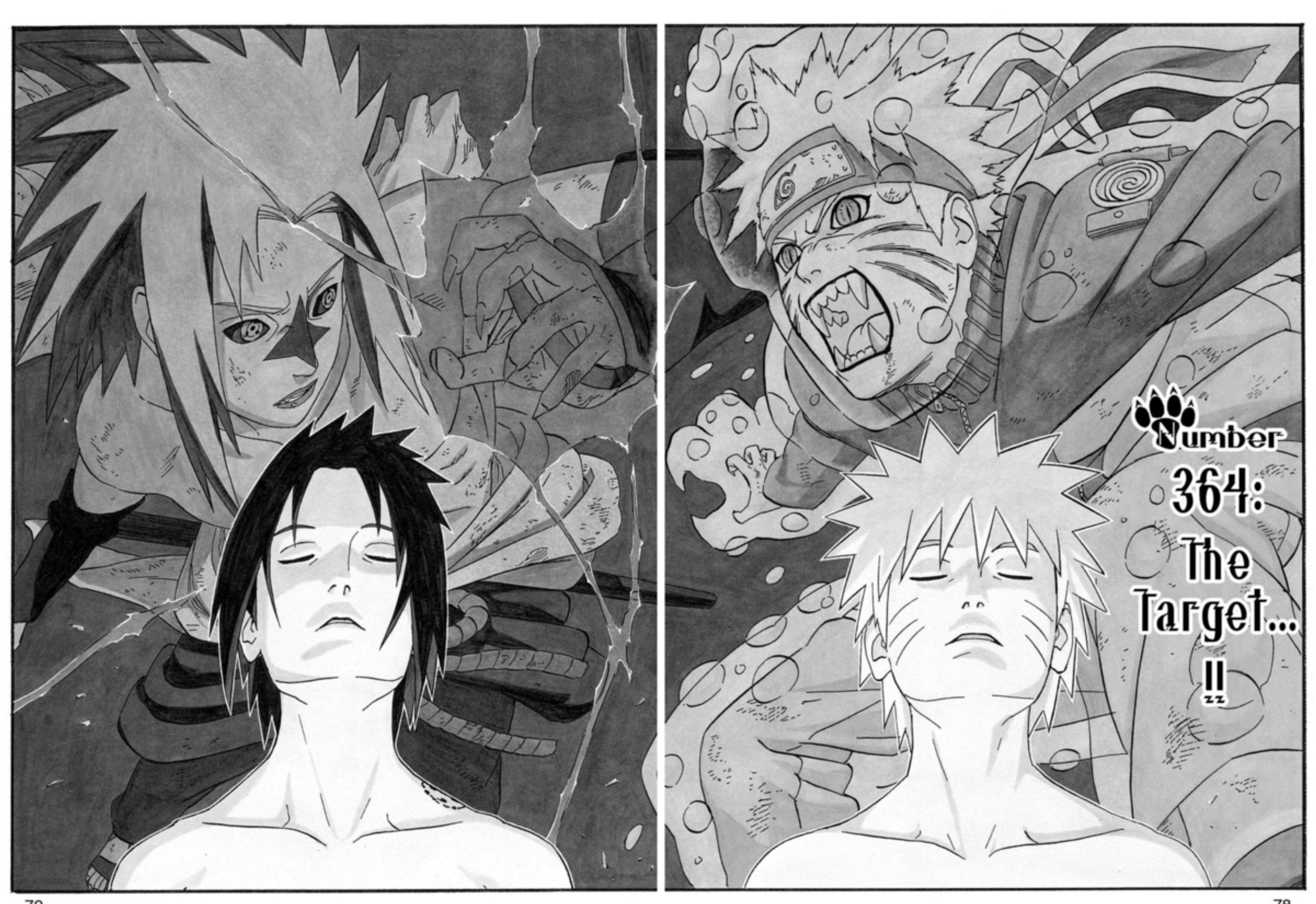



SO... WHAT OF SASUKE?


HE'S COMING ALONG NICELY...
HIS SHARINGAN IS AT FULL POWER...
...HIS EYES WILL EVENTUALLY SURPASS ITACHI'S...

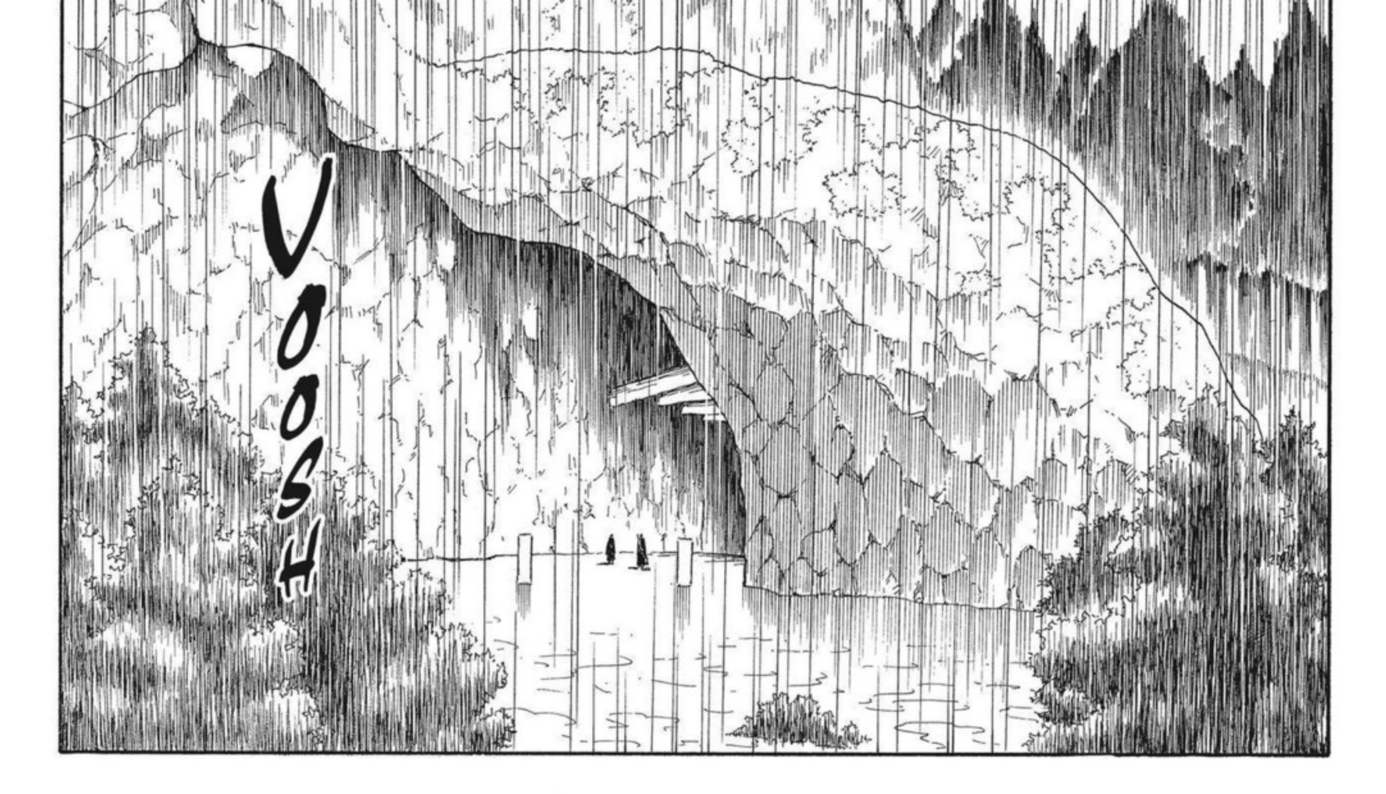

THEN THE TIME HAS COME.
I'M SURE HIS MIND IS MADE UP... SINCE HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER.
WHAT ABOUT NINE TAILS?


YOU HUNT IT.
AS LEADER, I WILL NOT TOLERATE FAILURE.


Number
364:
The
Target...
!!


NARUTO




VOOSH


IT'S NOT LETTING UP.
VOOSH
YOU KNOW, A STORM LIKE THIS IS UNUSUAL AROUND HERE THIS TIME OF YEAR...




VOOSH
!
SWISH


VOOSH
SPLISH


...


VOOSH


YOU'RE GONNA CATCH SOME-THING IF WE STAY OUT IN THIS...



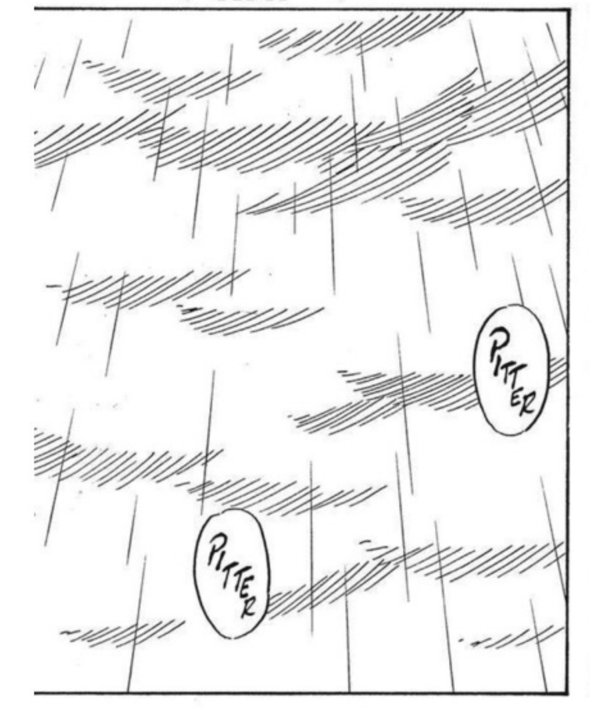

MAN, ITACHI, YOU'RE SO COLD I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE...
...WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW...

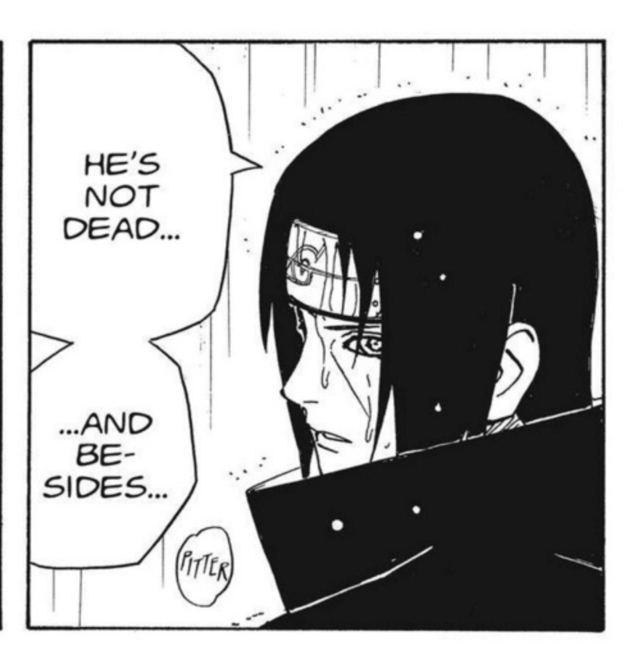

BUT FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE CRYING.


SORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THE UCHIHA CLAN...

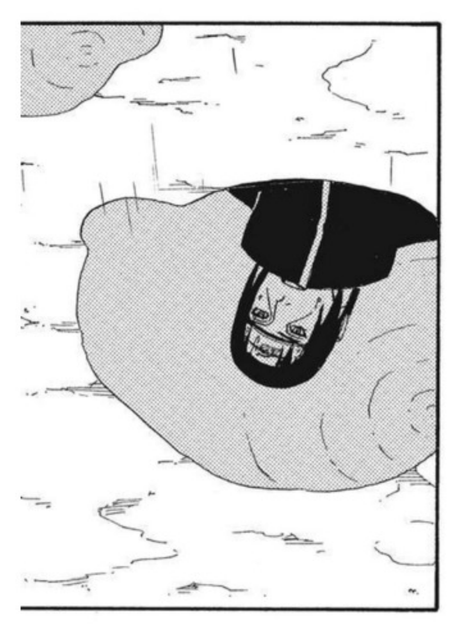
READ THIS WAY

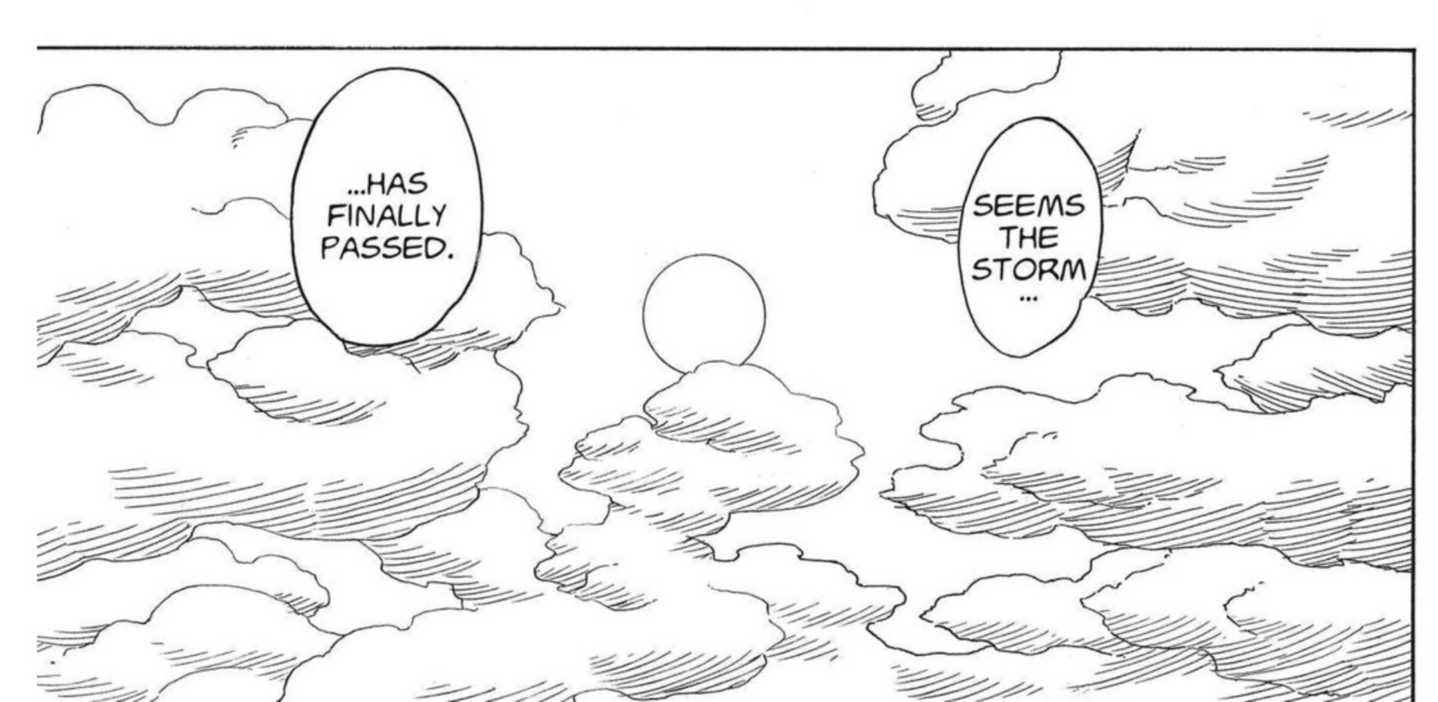


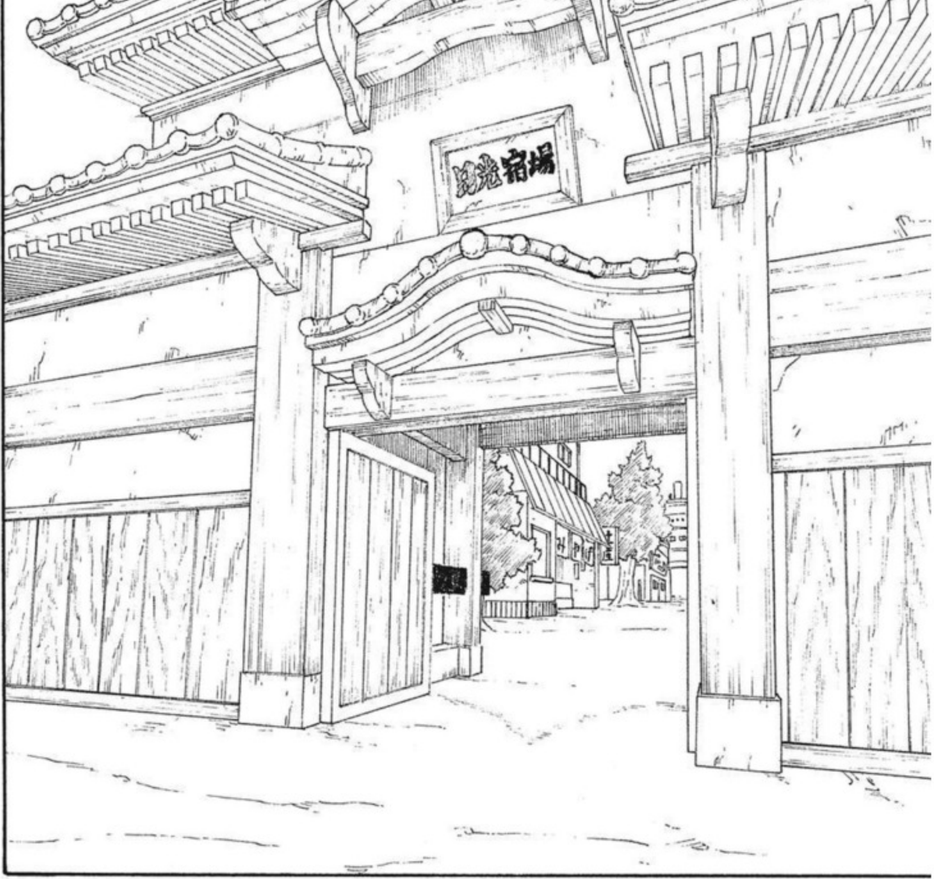








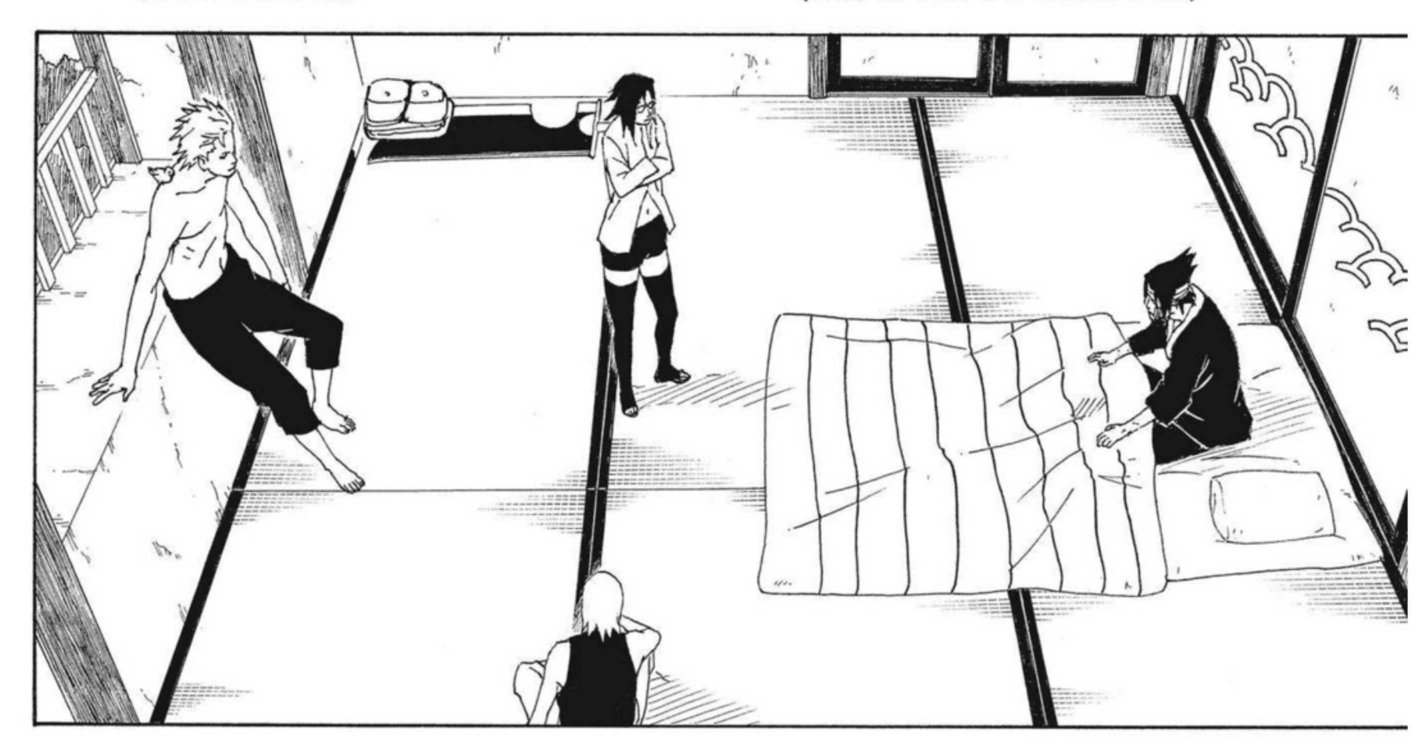




(NIKKO RELAY STATION)



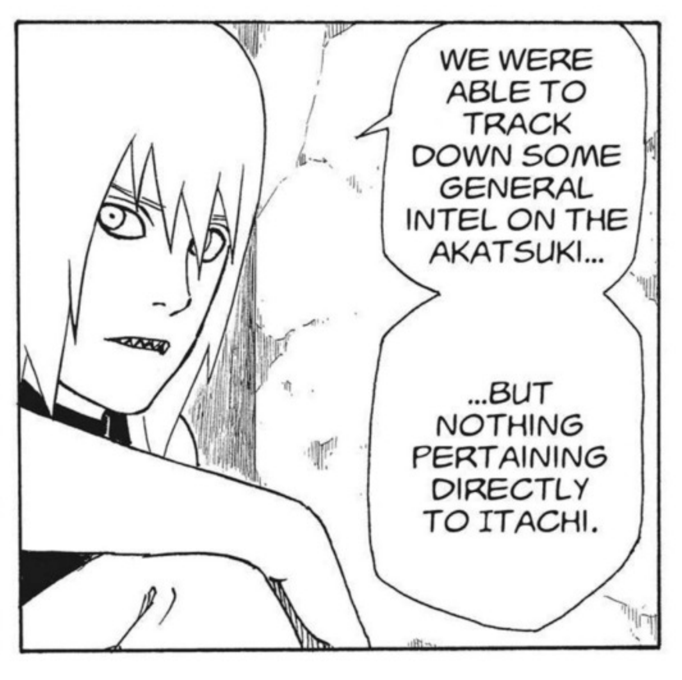
(INN OKOSHI)



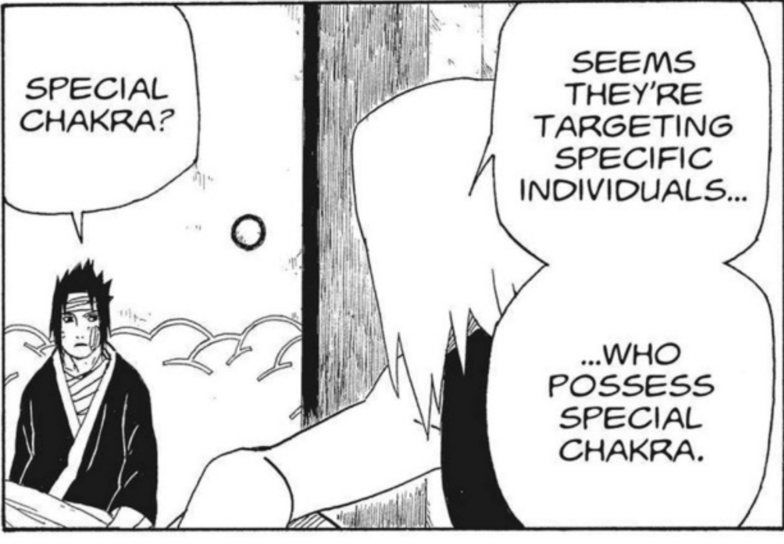


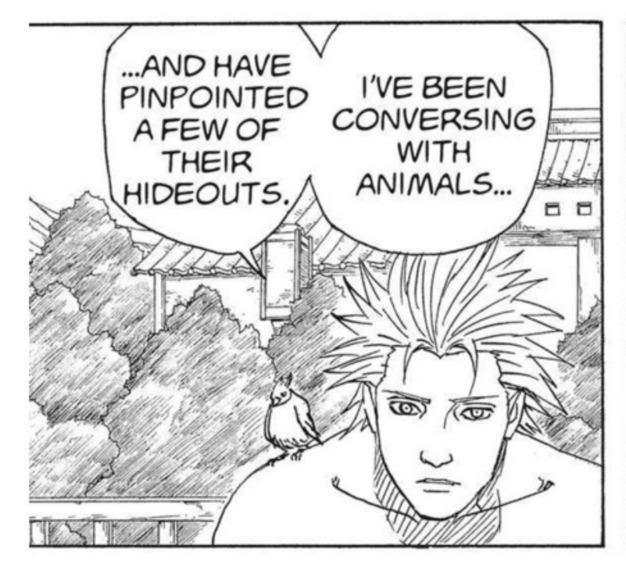



READ THIS WAY

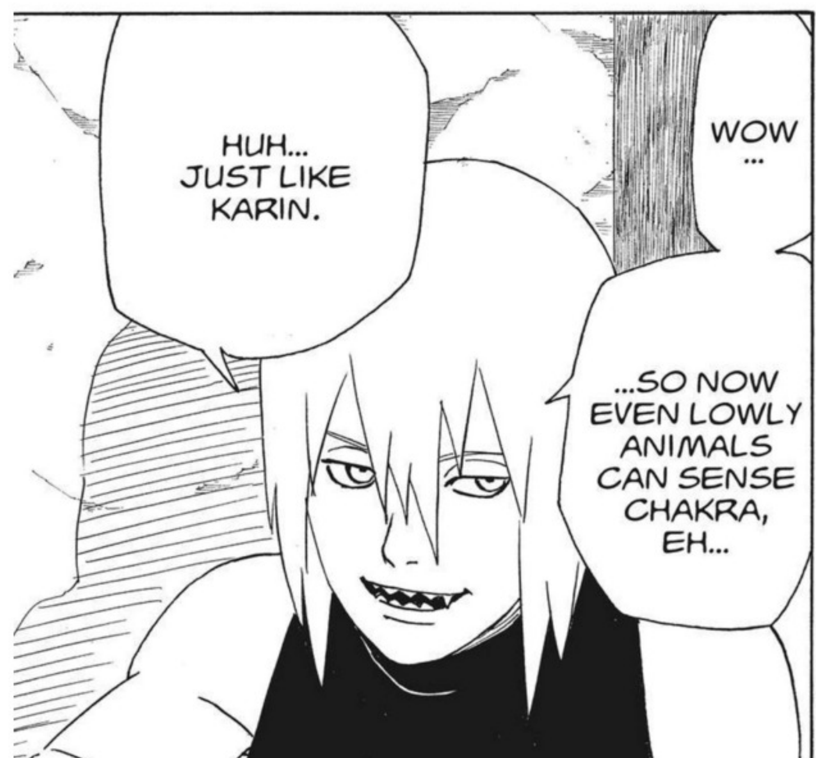

WE WERE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN SOME GENERAL INTEL ON THE AKATSUKI...
...BUT NOTHING PERTAINING DIRECTLY TO ITACHI.


...


SEEMS THEY'RE TARGETING SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS...
...WHO POSSESS SPECIAL CHAKRA.
SPECIAL CHAKRA?


I'VE BEEN CONVERSING WITH ANIMALS...
...AND HAVE PINPOINTED A FEW OF THEIR HIDEOUTS.


THEY SAY THEY SENSE POWERFUL, UNPLEASANT CHAKRA...
...EMANATING FROM THOSE PLACES.


WOW ...
...SO NOW EVEN LOWLY ANIMALS CAN SENSE CHAKRA, EH...
HUH... JUST LIKE KARIN.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!
WHAM!
SPLISH!
GAH!!

...
PLIP
FLAP



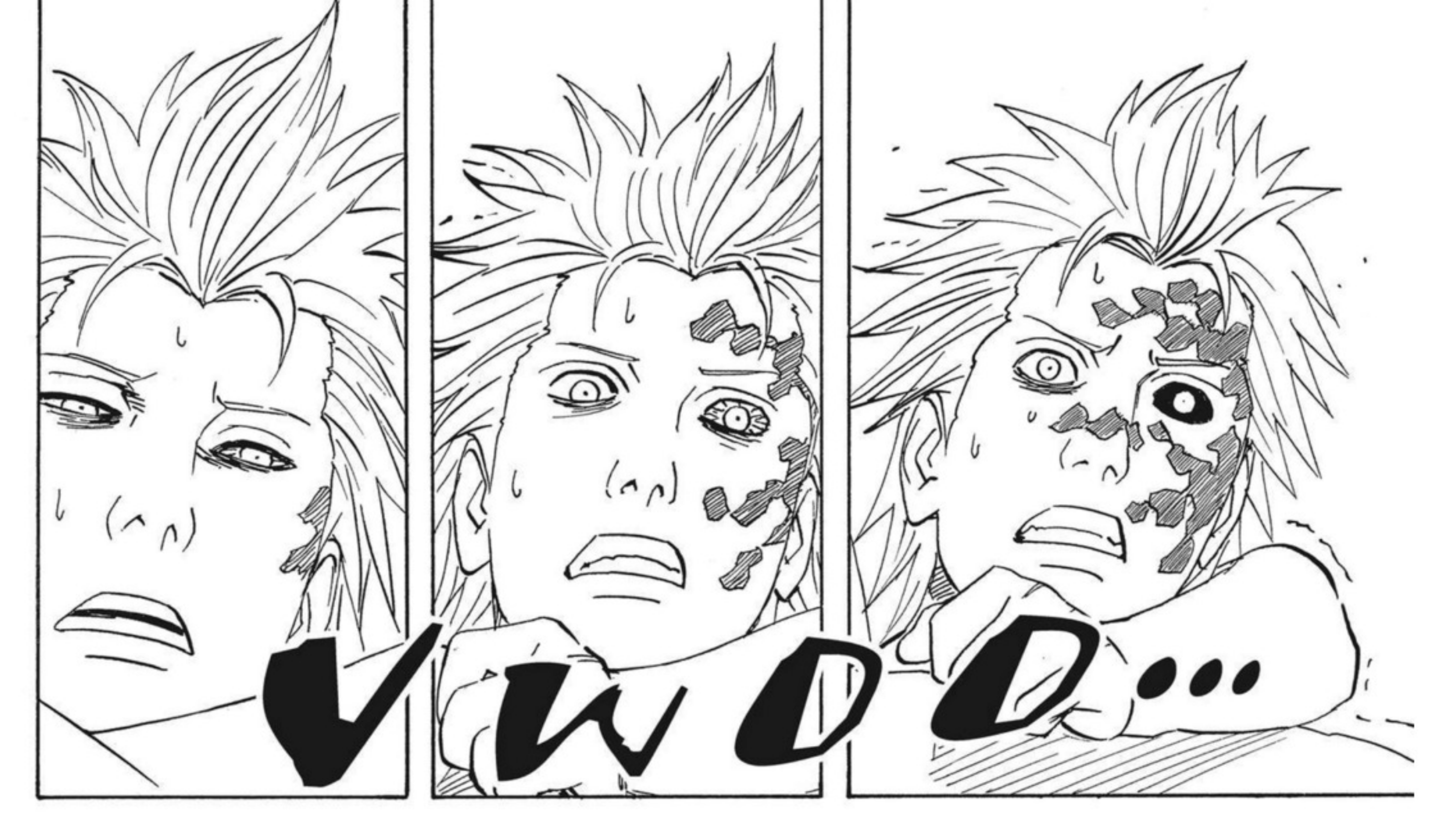



READ THIS WAY


KILL...
VWOOO...
I WANT TO KILL YOU... I DON'T CARE WHICH ONE OF YOU...

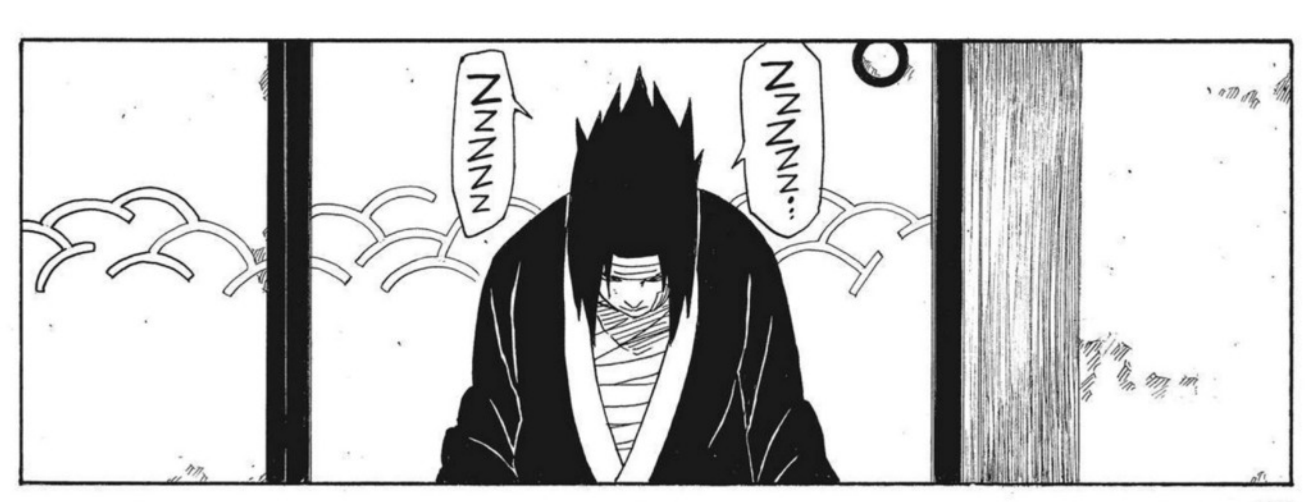

!
NNH NNH
SWOO...
!

(INN OKOSHI)
民宿
お越
RRRROAR!!!
SHOOT! JUGO'S KILLING IMPULSES HAVE BEEN AWAKENED!
THAP...
CALM DOWN, JUGO.
SWOOSH
SASUKE, HURRY UP!!

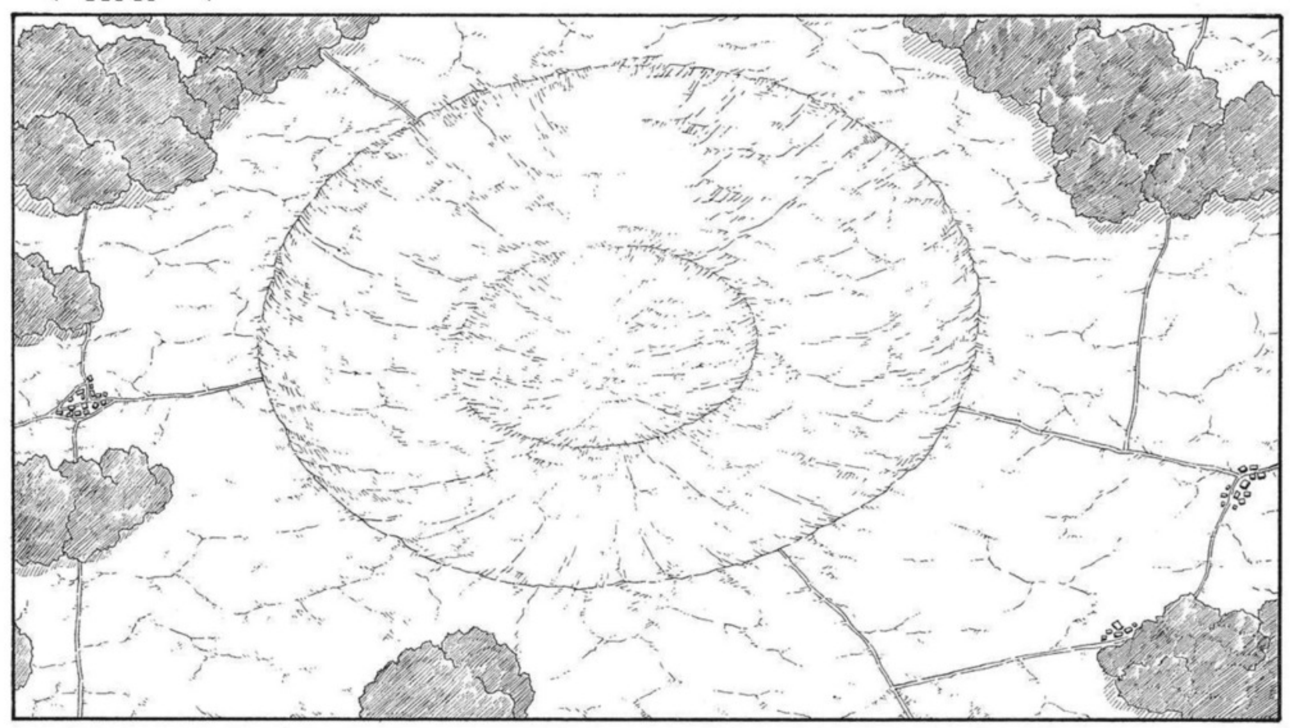

VWDD...

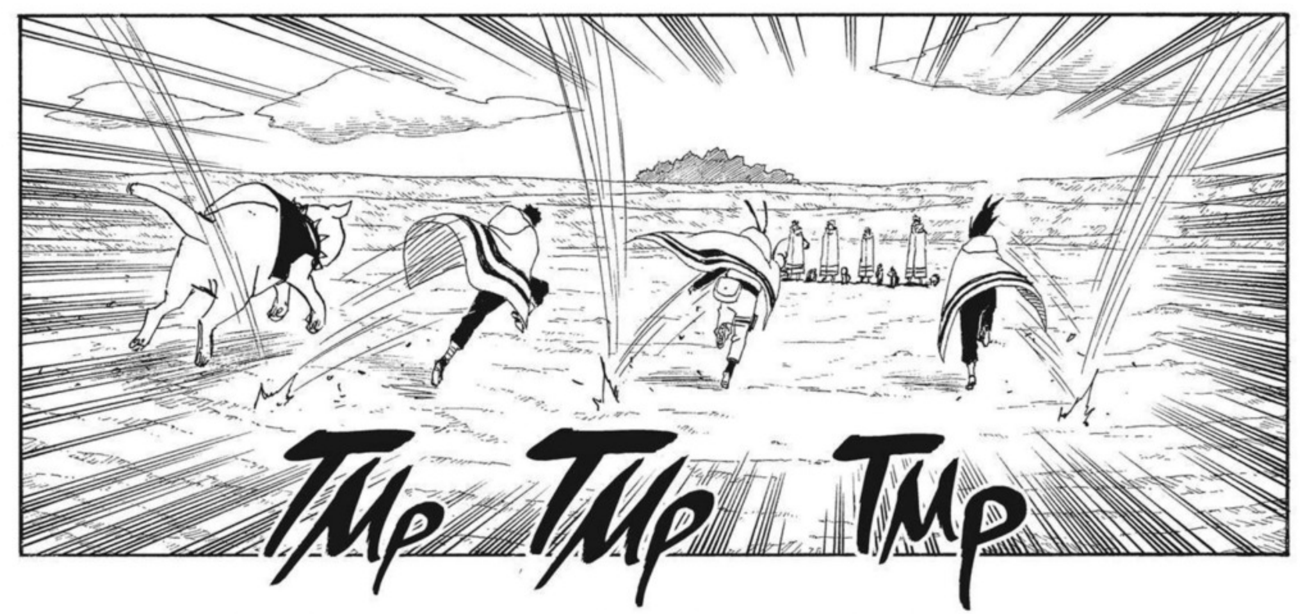

!


HUF
HUF
NNNH
TMP
S-SO SORRY...


ZZZZZ...
ZZZZZ


READ THIS WAY




TMP TMP TMP


!
NARUTO!

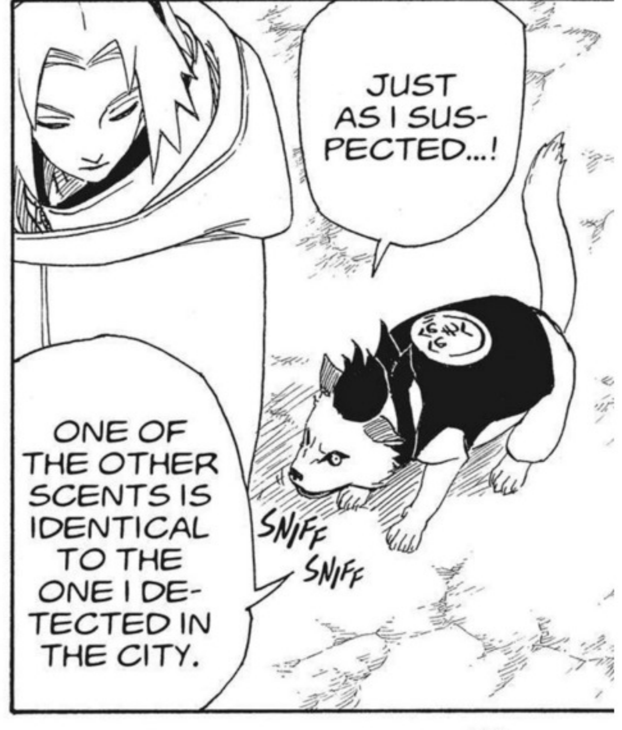

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO GOT CURIOUS.
YEAH! BUT WHAT HAP-PENED?!
SHOOM


THERE'S EVIDENCE SASUKE WAS HERE UNTIL JUST BEFORE WE ARRIVED!


?!


THERE'S A TRACE OF HIS SCENT.
PLUS A BUNCH OF OTHERS ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

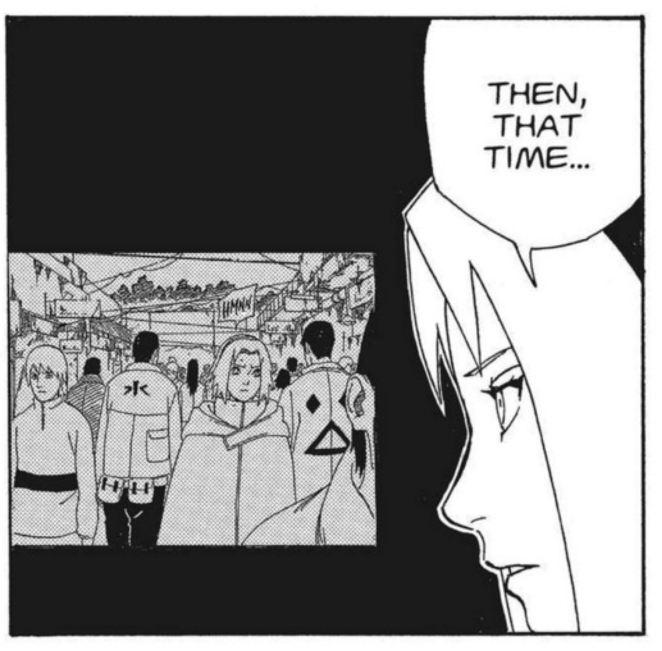

BY THE LOOK OF THIS CRATER, A BATTLE WAS FOUGHT HERE...

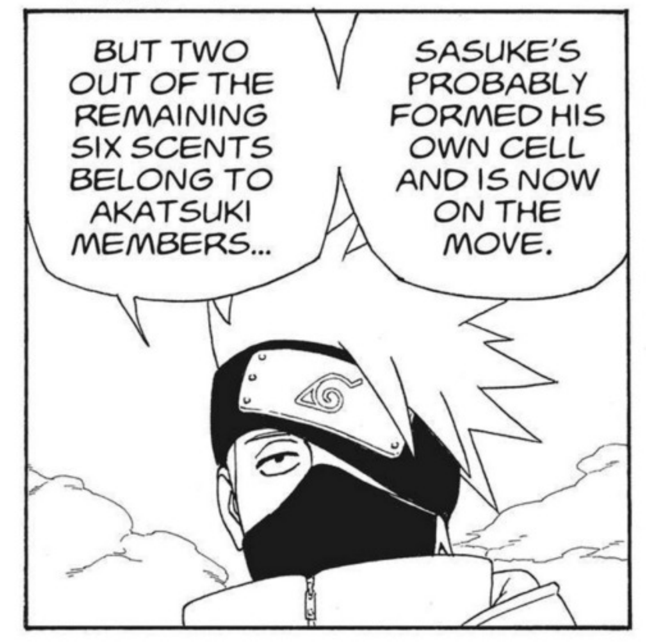

JUST AS I SUS-PECTED...!
ONE OF THE OTHER SCENTS IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE I DE-TECTED IN THE CITY.
SNIFF
SNIFF


HUH?


SASUKE IS NOT TRAVELING ALONE.
HE'S GOT A COM-PANION...


READ THIS WAY


THEN, THAT TIME...
HMMN


SASUKE'S PROBABLY FORMED HIS OWN CELL AND IS NOW ON THE MOVE.
BUT TWO OUT OF THE REMAINING SIX SCENTS BELONG TO AKATSUKI MEMBERS...


OK... SO, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S FOLLOW SASUKE'S SCENT!


IMPOS-SIBLE.


HUH?!
HOW COME?!






IN THIS CASE, EITHER SASUKE WAS TOTALLY BLASTED TO BITS BY THE EXPLOSION...
...OR HE ESCAPED USING TELEPORTATION NINJUTSU.


HIS TRAIL GOES COLD HERE.
WHAT?! HOW?!

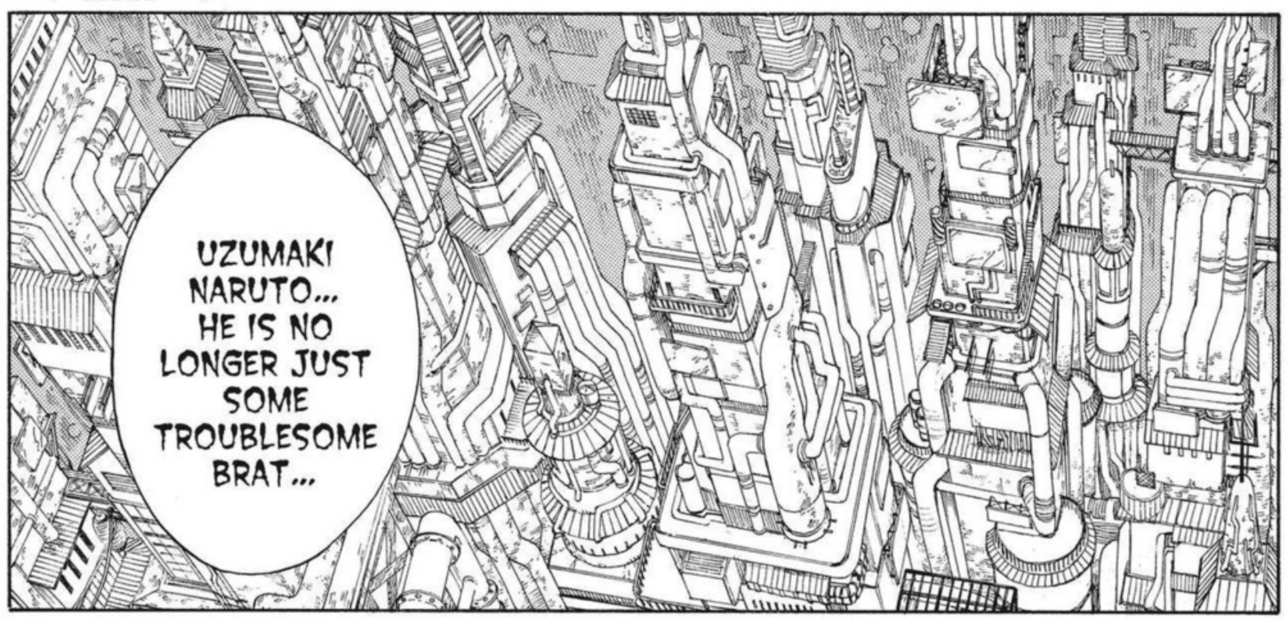

MY NOSE IS SHARPER THAN A DOG'S.
AND I'VE FOUND HIM...

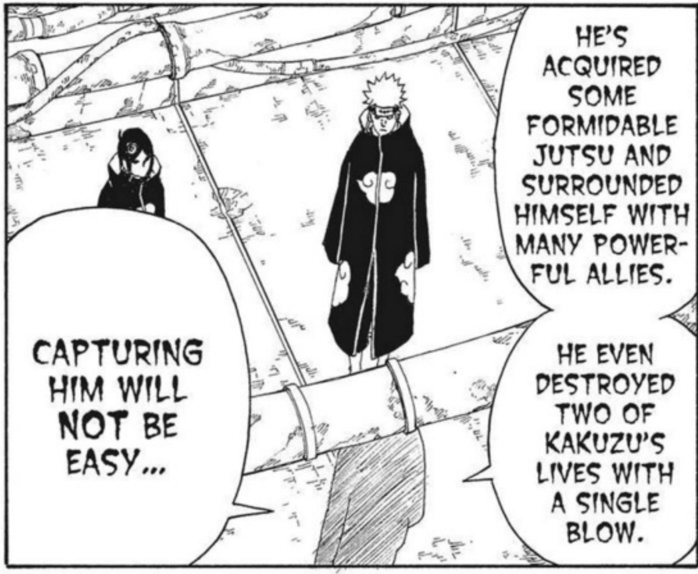

I BELIEVE IT'S THE LATTER.
?!


THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?! LEAD ON, KIBA!


A NOSE SHARPER THAN A NINJA HOUND'S...?
TRULY IMPRESSIVE, KIBA. YOU'RE LIVING UP TO THE INUZUKA NAME.


READ THIS WAY

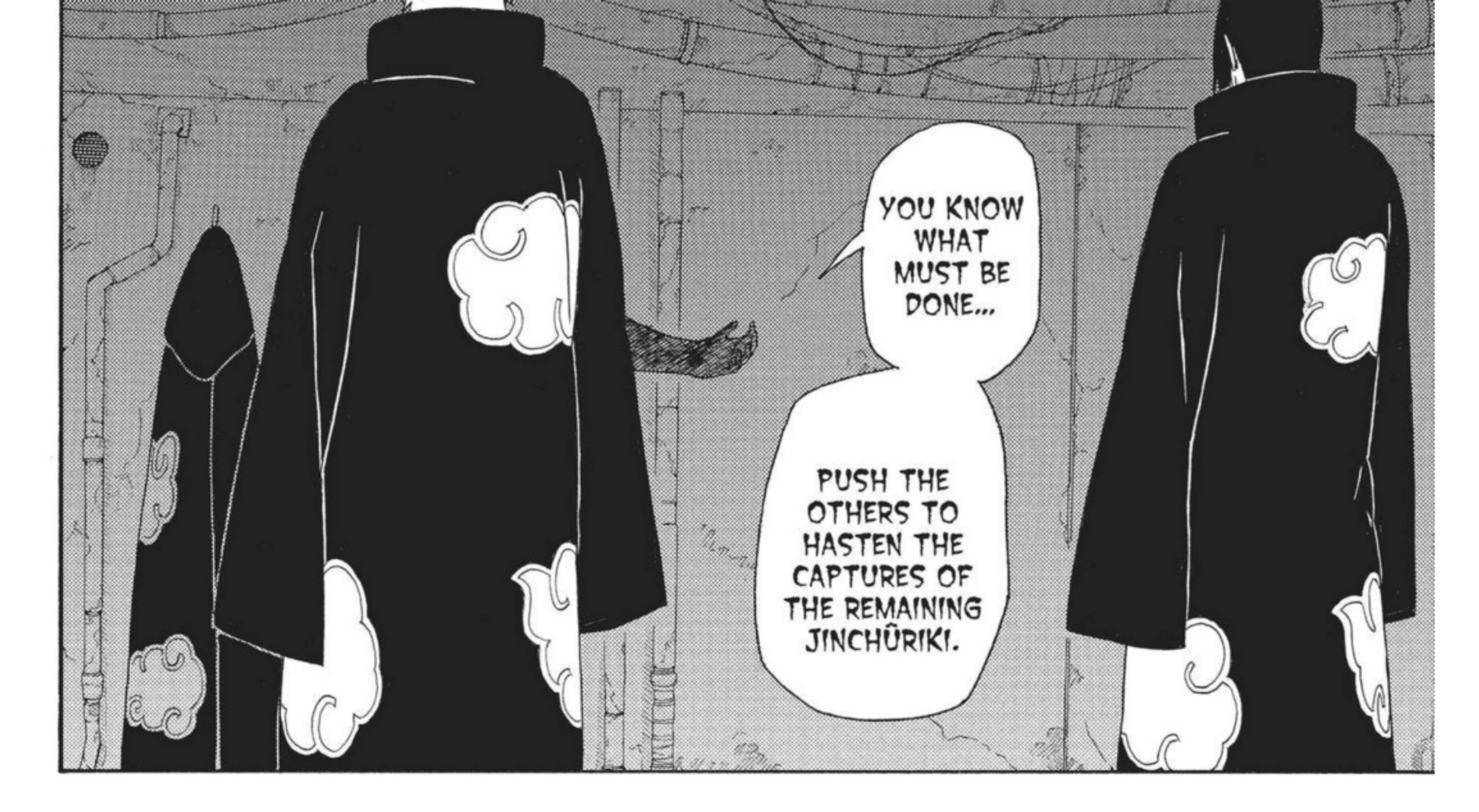

UZUMAKI NARUTO... HE IS NO LONGER JUST SOME TROUBLESOME BRAT...

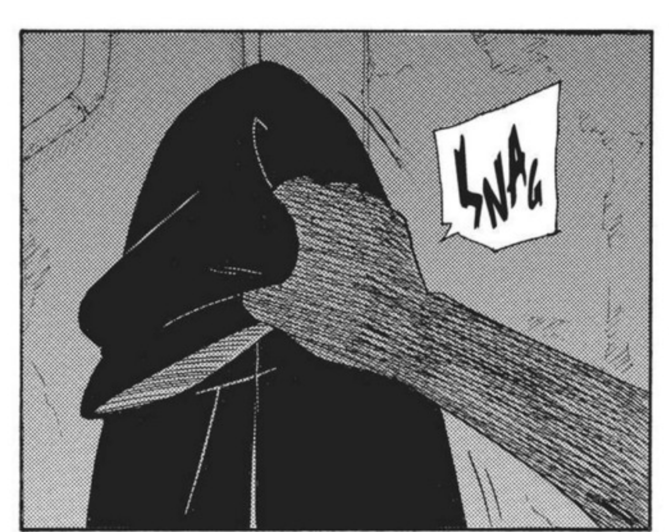

HE'S ACQUIRED SOME FORMIDABLE JUTSU AND SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH MANY POWER-FUL ALLIES.
HE EVEN DESTROYED TWO OF KAKUZU'S LIVES WITH A SINGLE BLOW.
CAPTURING HIM WILL NOT BE EASY...


SPARE US YOUR WORDS OF WARNING AND FEAR. THEY ARE WASTED ON US.

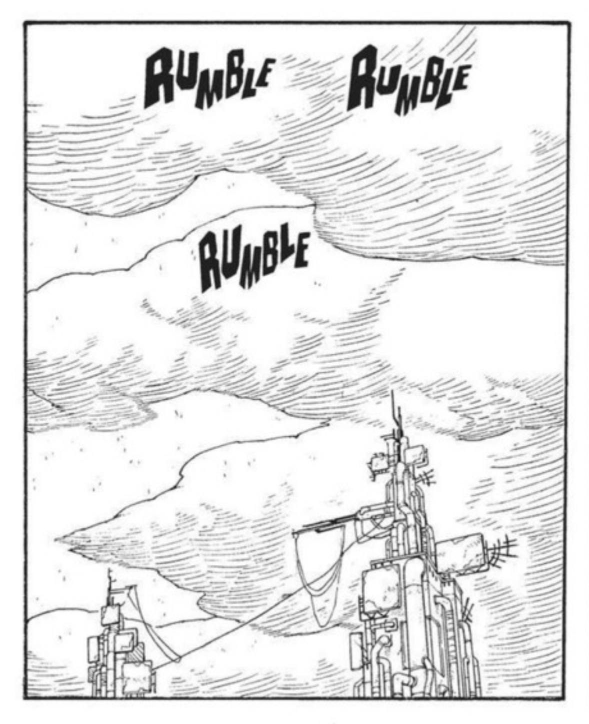

PAIN HAS NEVER YET LOST A BATTLE.


HO HO...
TRUE ENOUGH...


YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE...
PUSH THE OTHERS TO HASTEN THE CAPTURES OF THE REMAINING JINCHŪRIKI.


SNAG


I KNOW.


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

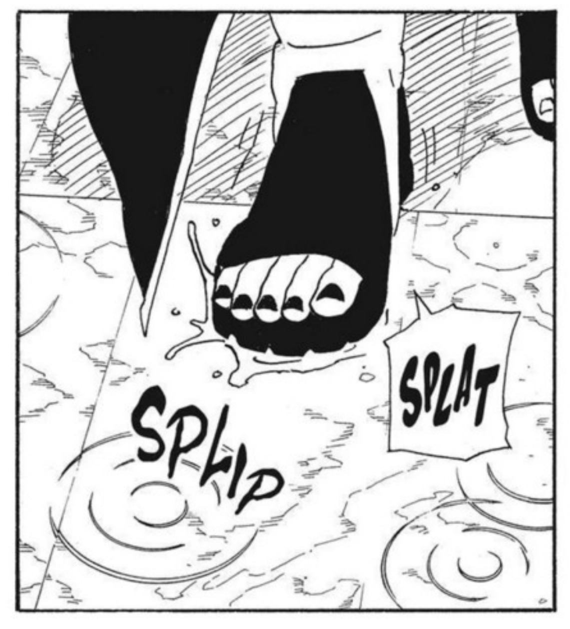

SOON, VERY SOON...
...ALL OUR GOALS SHALL BE ACHIEVED...
FLAP
SHUP


READ
THIS
WAY

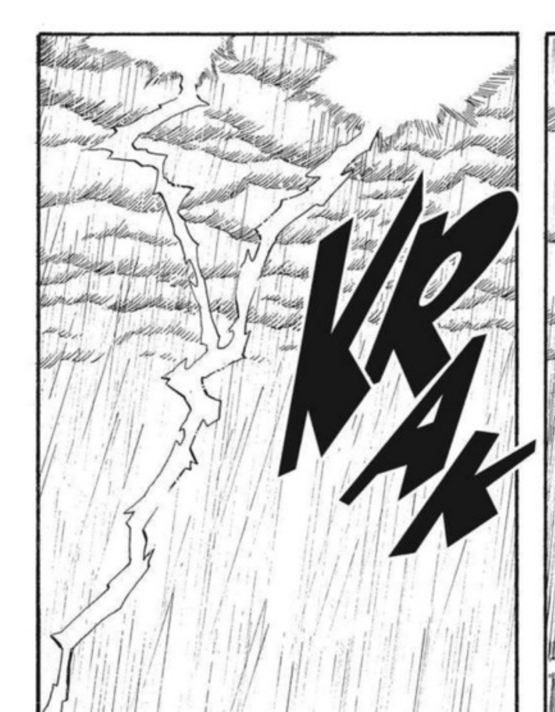

WHEN THAT HAPPENS, EVERYTHING SHALL BE RESTORED TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE...


SHUP


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
VOOSH

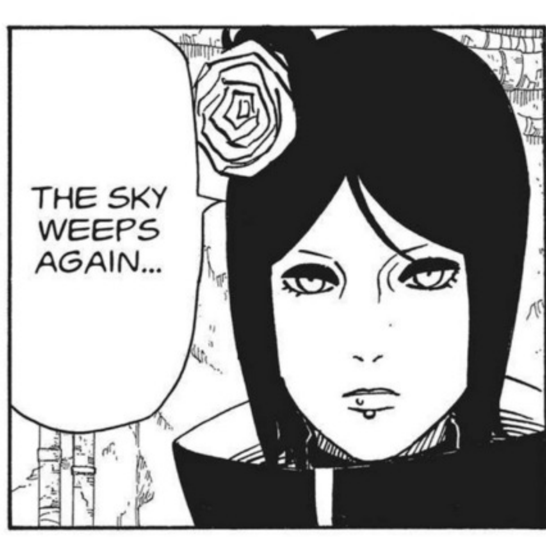

SPLAT
SPLIP


FZZASH


KRAK


...INCLUDING THE TRUE POWER OF THE SHARINGAN...
...MY POWER... UCHIHA MADARA...


FFFT
RUMBLE RUMBLE
PLIP


THE SKY WEEPS AGAIN...


PAIN...
...ARE YOU...?


NARUTO

Number 365: Pursue Itachi!






THAT GIRL'S LATE...
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PICK UP SUPPLIES...?


I WISH IT WOULD GET DARK SOON...


ONCE JUGO AND SUIGETSU ARE ASLEEP, I'LL FINALLY HAVE SASUKE ALL TO MYSELF!
HEE HEE HEE... I'M EXCITED ALREADY~ ♡
WHISK


PSHH





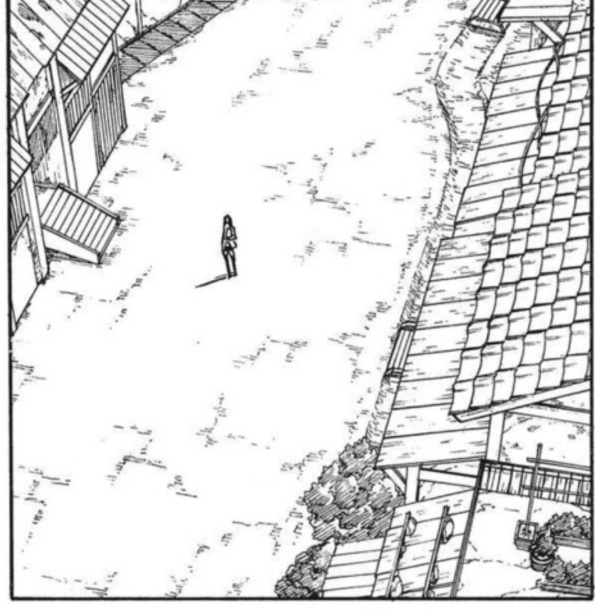
SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM

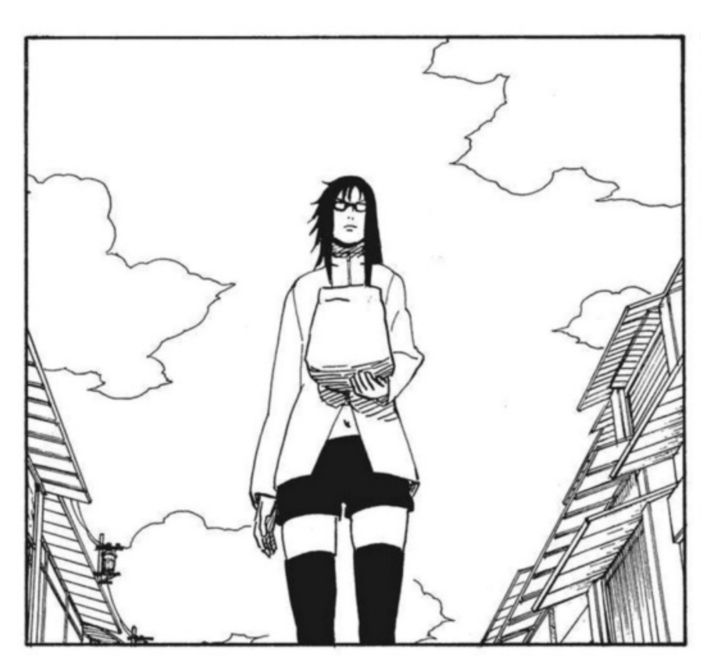
WELL, KIBA?!



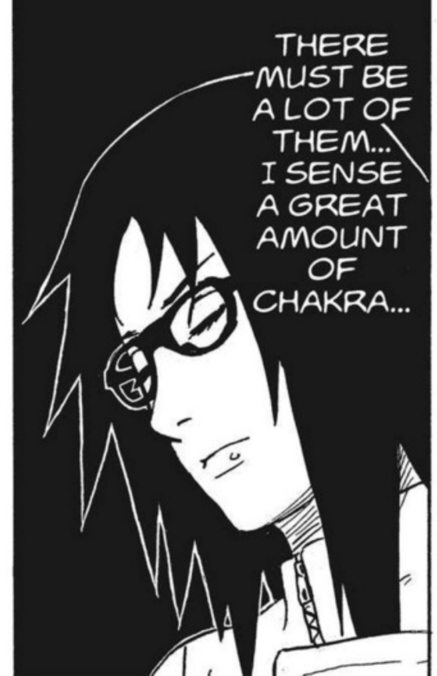






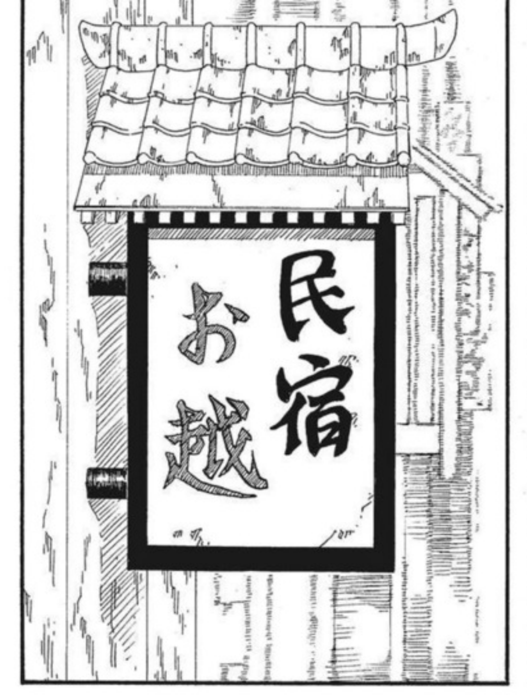


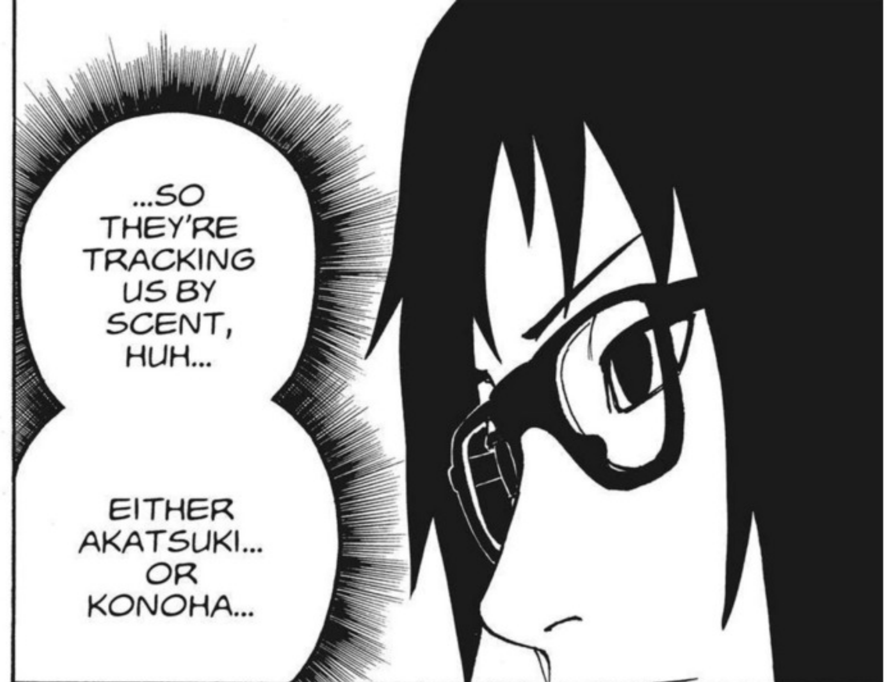




...NOT ALL OF IT HUMAN EITHER...

...DOGS, I THINK...





JUGO! I'M GONNA GO CHECK ON KARIN.

SWISH...

DO ME A FAVOR AND TRY TO CONTROL YOURSELF.

YEAH, NO PROBLEM.

SHF

BLAM

ARGH!!

WAKE UP, SASUKE!!

?!

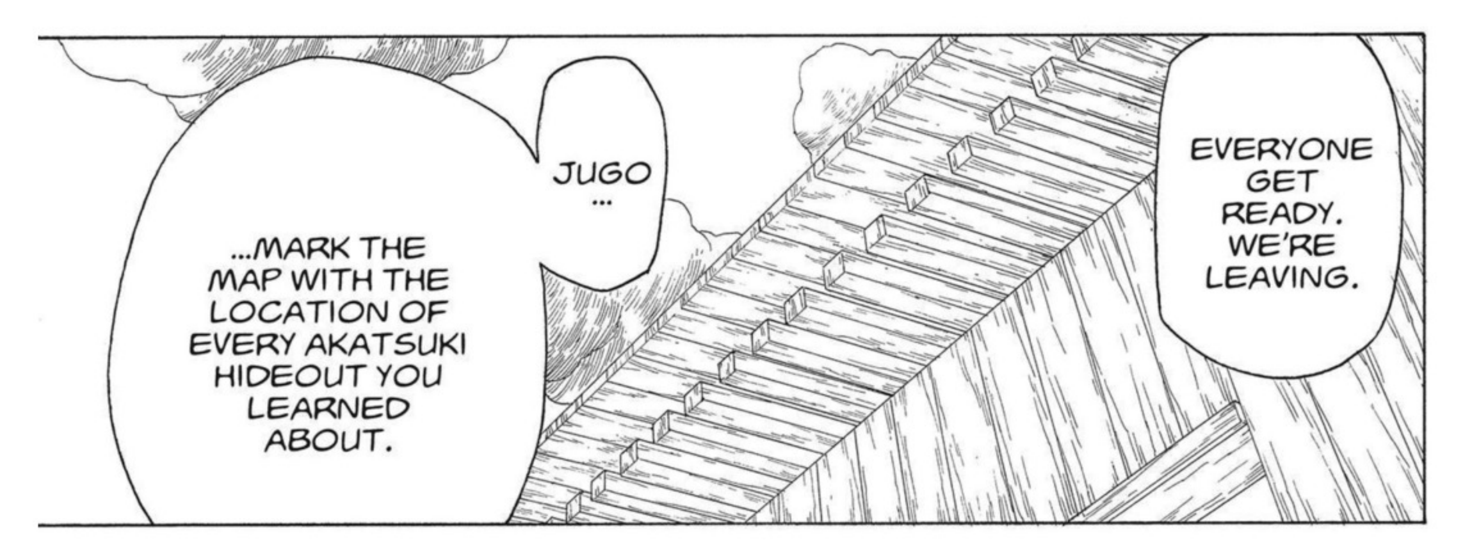
WHAT?!


READ
THIS
WAY

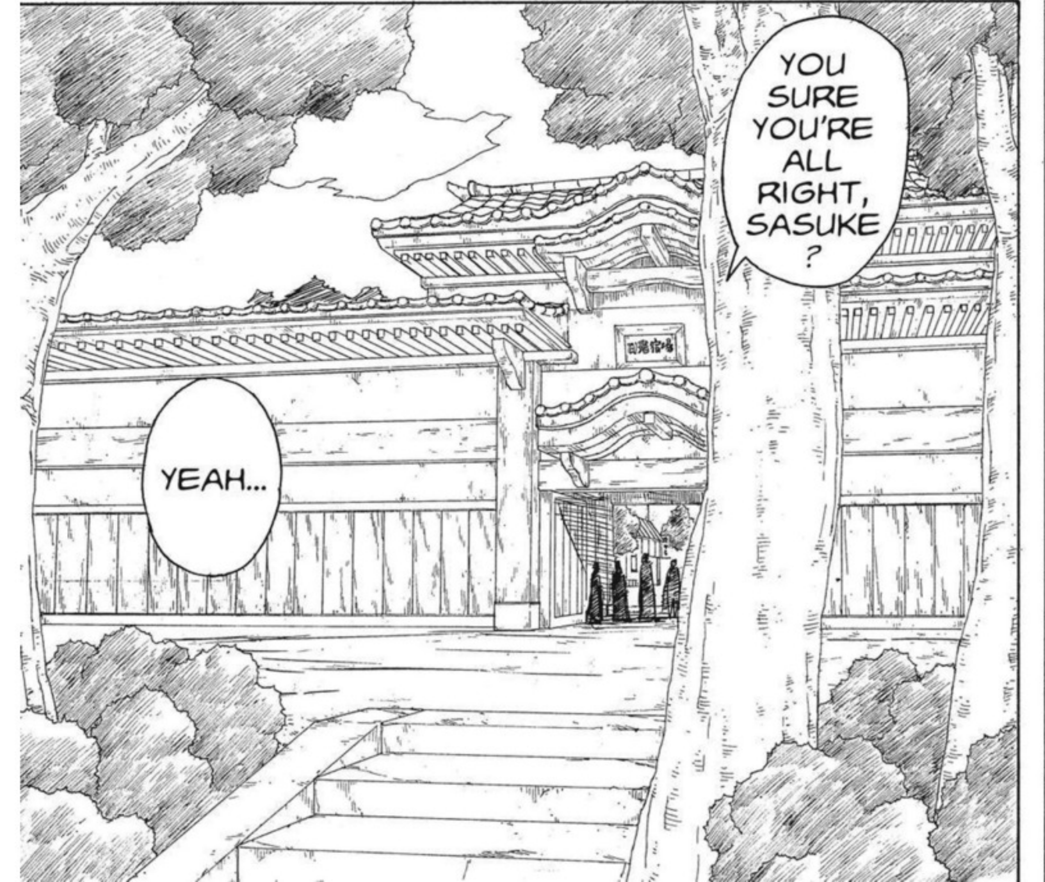

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COM-PANY...
...SO WHAT NOW?

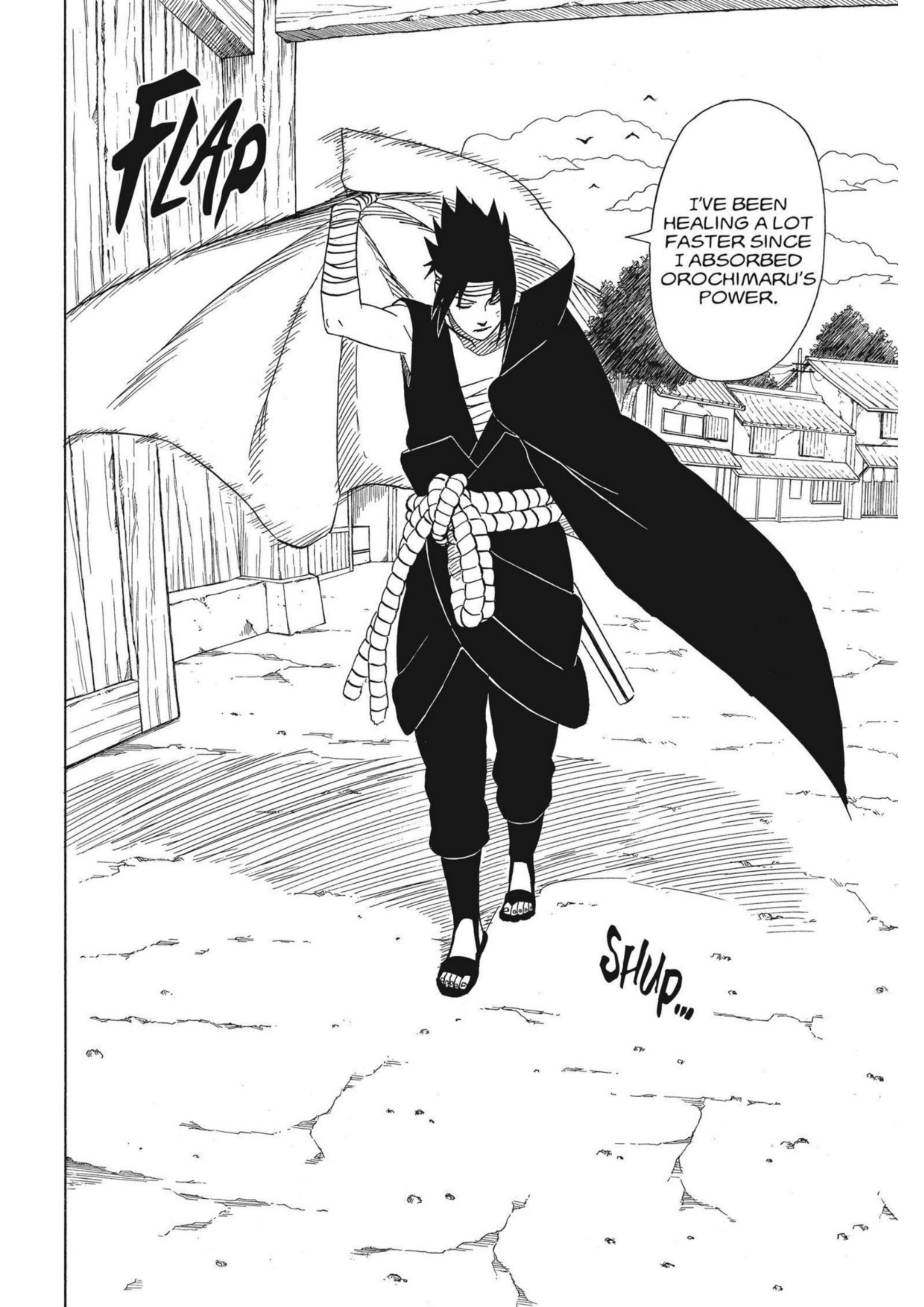



...


EVERYONE GET READY. WE'RE LEAVING.
JUGO ...
...MARK THE MAP WITH THE LOCATION OF EVERY AKATSUKI HIDEOUT YOU LEARNED ABOUT.


日光宿


YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, SASUKE ?
YEAH...


FLAP
I'VE BEEN HEALING A LOT FASTER SINCE I ABSORBED OROCHIMARU'S POWER.
SHUP...

READ THIS WAY















FINE...

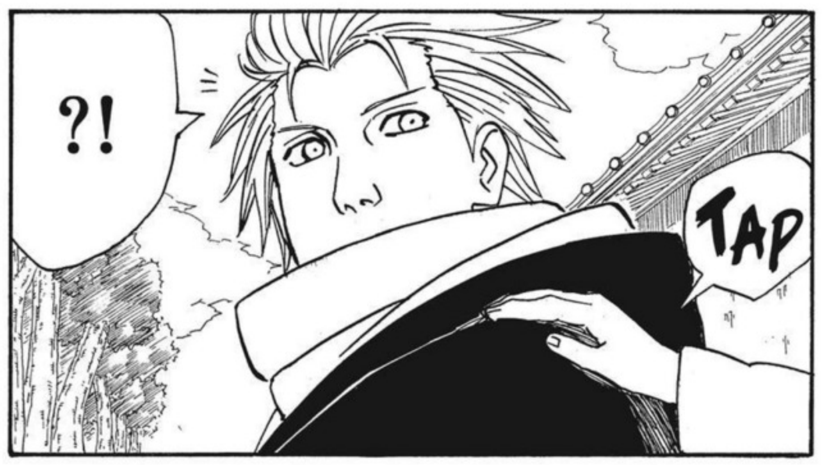
BUT FIRST, TEAM HEBI, WE USE JUGO'S INTEL...

...AND HIT THOSE AKATSUKI HIDEOUTS ONE BY ONE.

SWISH

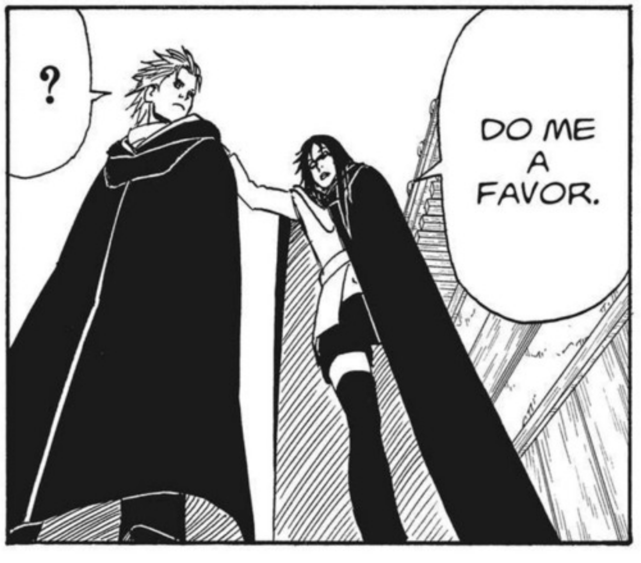
FLAP

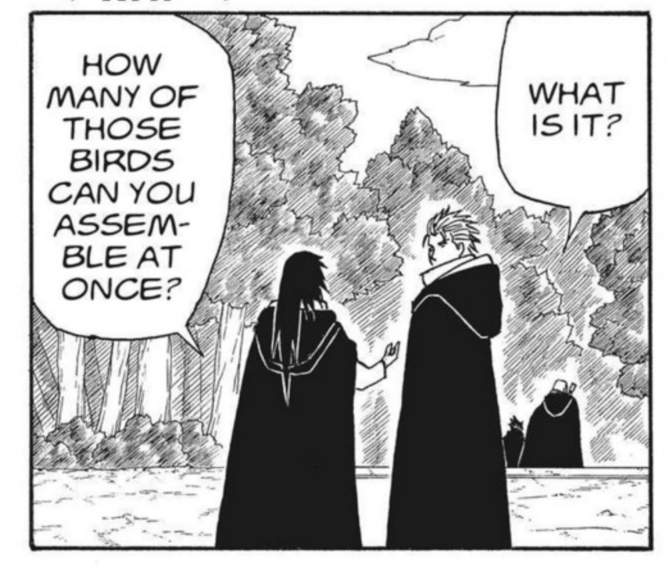
LET'S GO.



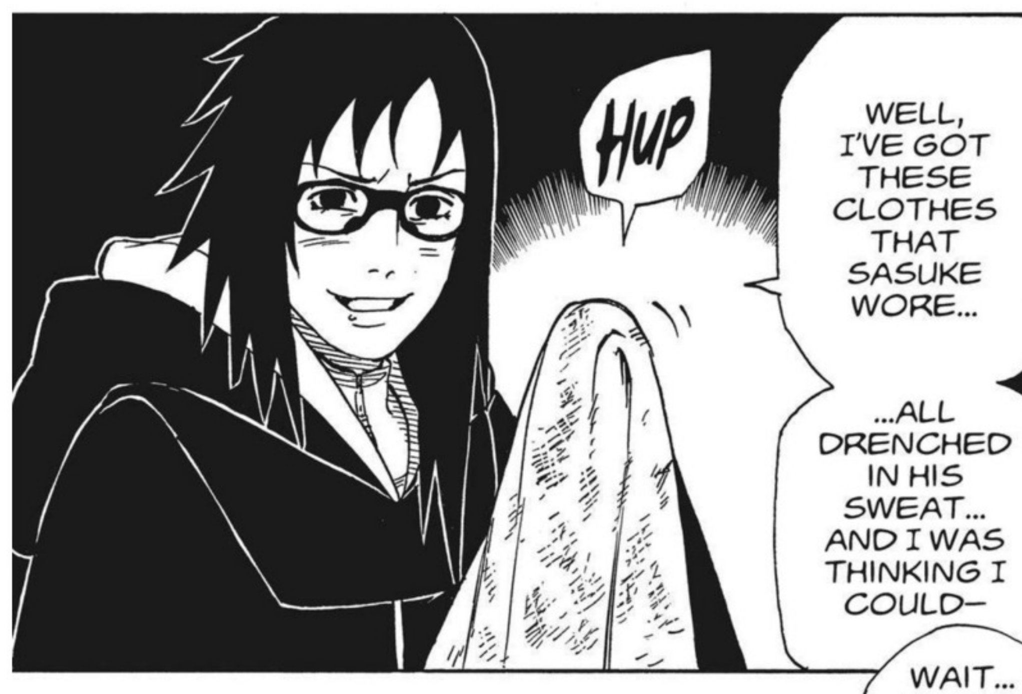



READ
THIS
WAY


DO ME A FAVOR.
?


WHAT IS IT?
HOW MANY OF THOSE BIRDS CAN YOU ASSEMBLE AT ONCE?


WHY...?


WELL, I'VE GOT THESE CLOTHES THAT SASUKE WORE...
HUP
...ALL DRENCHED IN HIS SWEAT... AND I WAS THINKING I COULD–

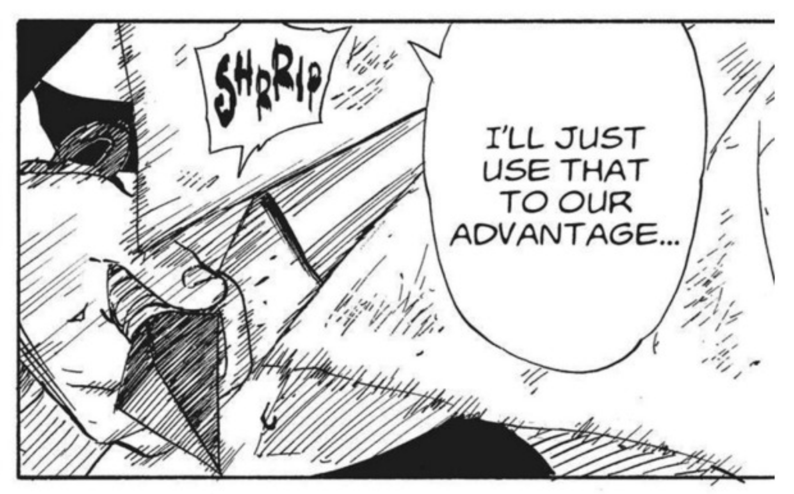

WAIT... WHY DO YOU HAVE SASUKE'S SWEATY OLD CLOTHES??


Y'KNOW WHAT?? FORGET IT! FORGET I EVEN ASKED!
DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHERED COMING TO YOU OF ALL PEOPLE! JERK!!
TAP


?



A-ANY-WAY...
SHRRIP
SHRRIP
SHRRIP
SHRRIP
SENSORY-TYPE SHINOBI HAVE DIFFERENT SPECIALTIES DEPENDING ON THEIR VILLAGE OF ORIGIN.
KONOHA TENDS TO USE NINJA HOUNDS FOR TRACKING.



I'LL JUST USE THAT TO OUR ADVANTAGE...
SHRRIP





SHOOM-SHOOM



!

WHAT'S UP, KIBA?!

SHOOT!

SASUKE'S ON THE MOVE!!

THEN WE BETTER HURRY!

HE'S PROBABLY GOING AFTER ITACHI!!

WAIT!

THAT'S WEIRD...

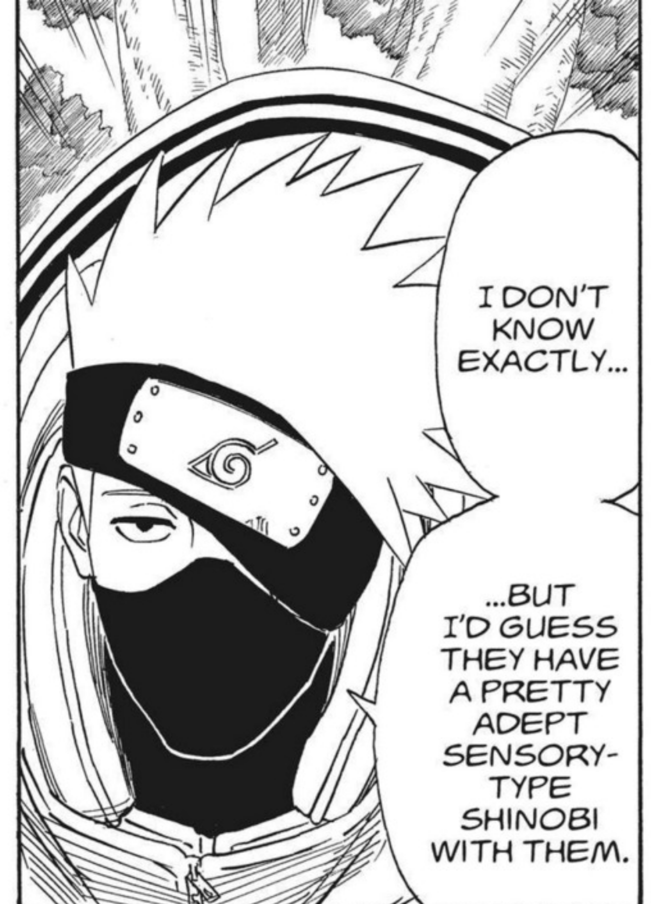
?!

TMP

SASUKE'S SCENT IS SCATTERING!

IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE NOW! GOING IN ALL DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AT ONCE?!


THEY MUST HAVE SENSED OUR APPROACH AND ARE NOW TRYING TO FOOL US INTO SPLITTING UP.
SENSED US? HOW?!


I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY...
...BUT I'D GUESS THEY HAVE A PRETTY ADEPT SENSORY-TYPE SHINOBI WITH THEM.


OUR COMMS AREN'T LONG RANGE! IF WE SPLIT UP, THEY'LL BE USELESS!
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TRACK HIM...
...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH SCENT TO FOLLOW!


...


THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!
FOLLOW ALL THE SCENTS!!
FWP



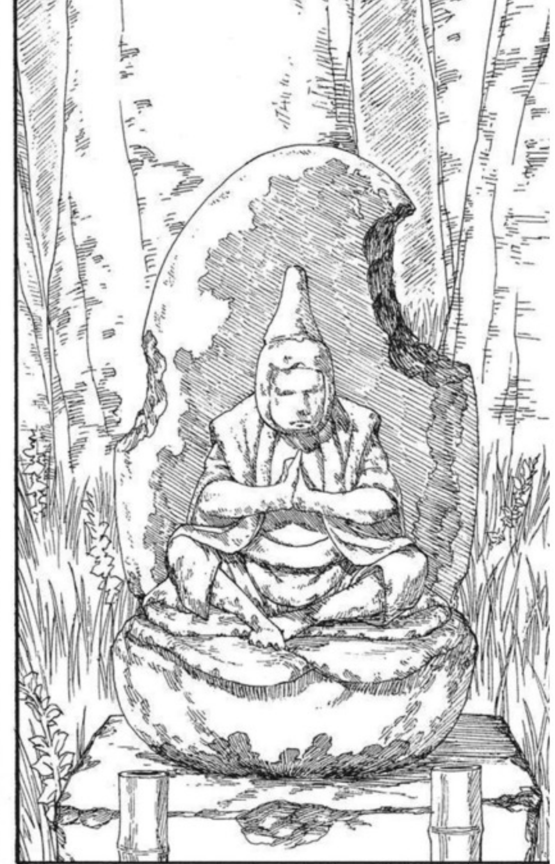
ART OF THE MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS !!

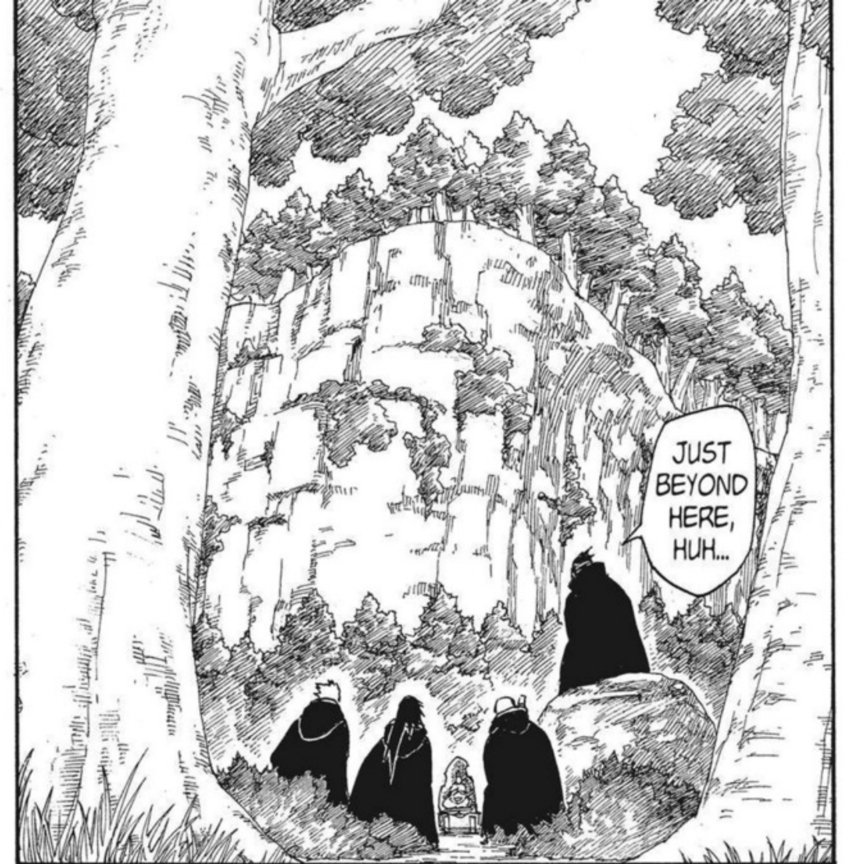
BOOF-BOOF-BOOF

SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM

SHOOM

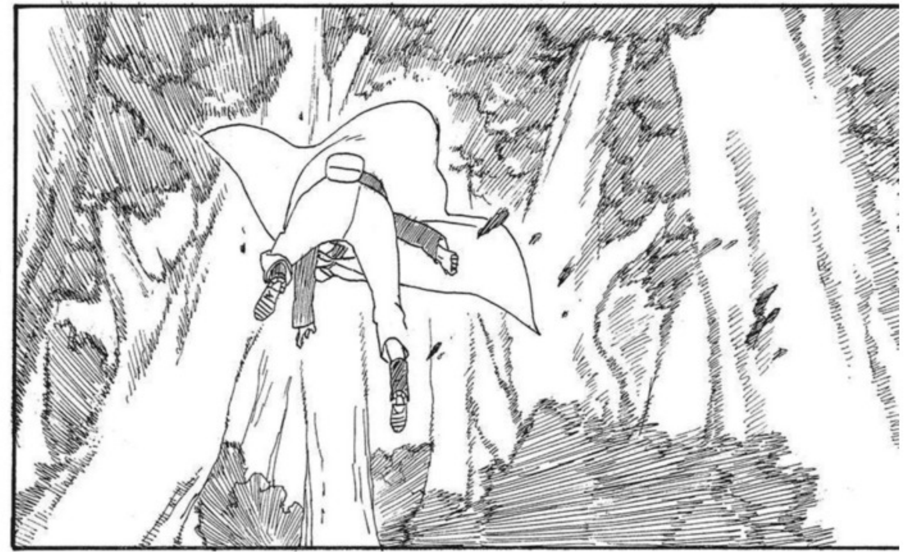
SHOOM SHOOM




JUST BEYOND HERE, HUH...

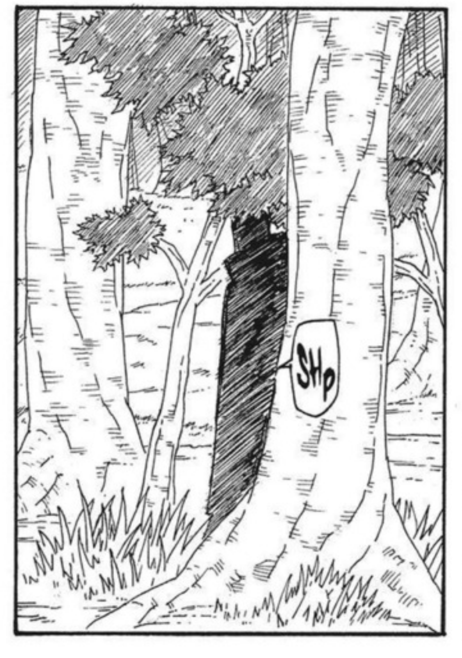

YOU ALL WAIT HERE UNTIL I GIVE THE ORDER.
I'M GOING TO GO TAKE A LOOK.

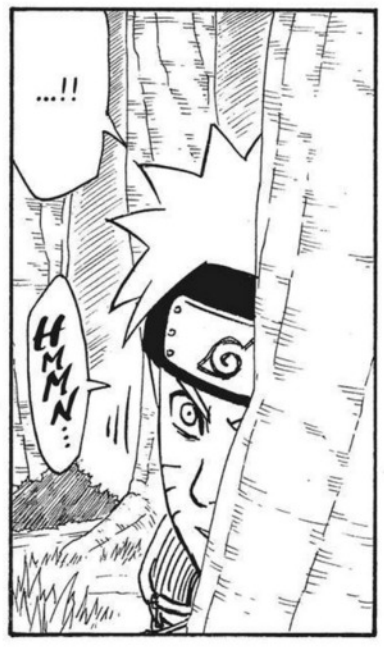

SHOOM




RUSTLE
!!


READ THIS WAY


SHP


...!!
HMMN...


TMP

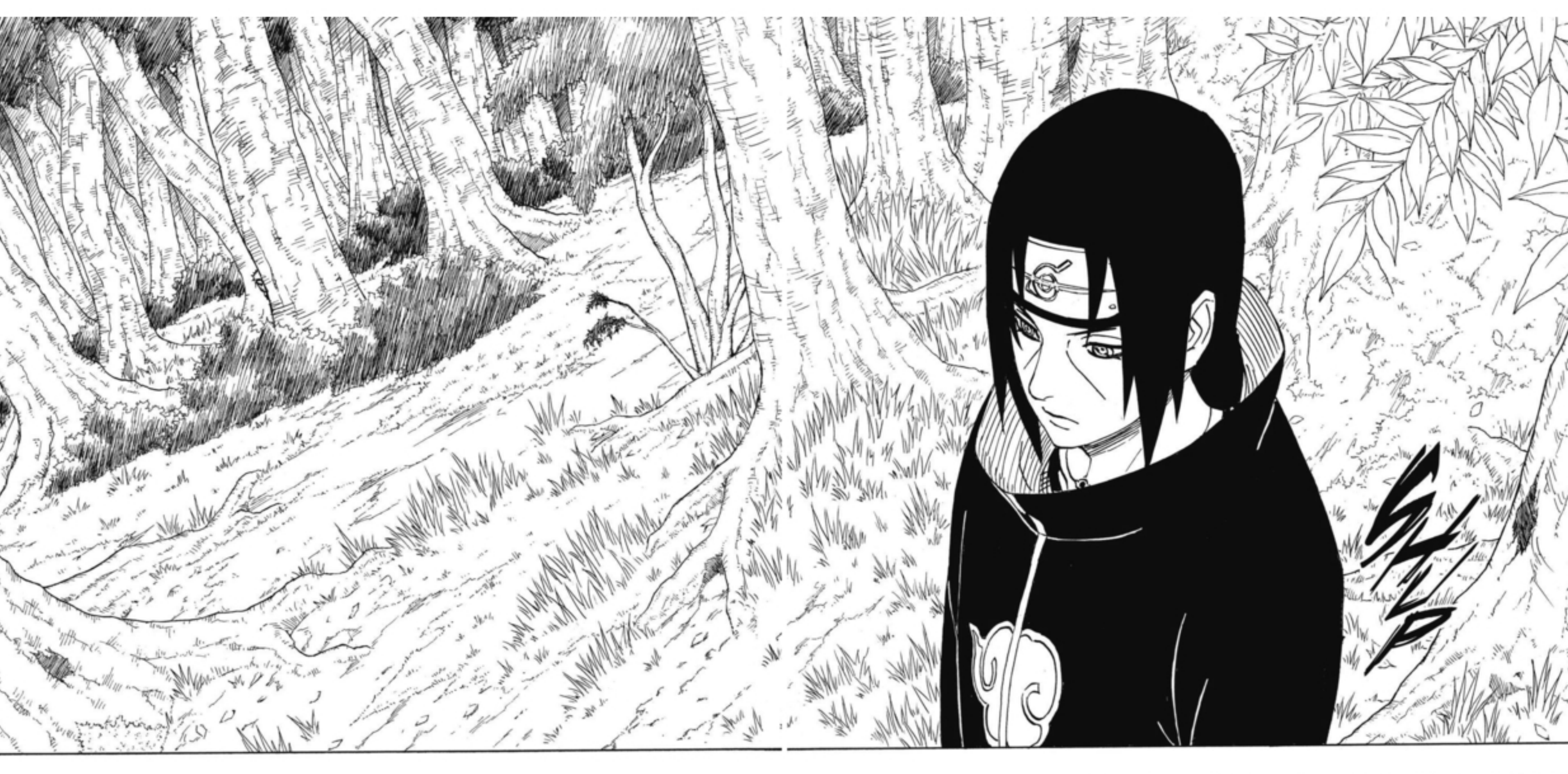



!

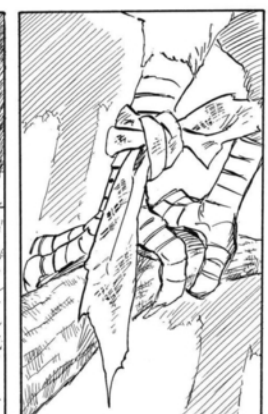

...SASUKE!!


SHUP


SHARINGAN?!!




!
NO! THAT'S...!




UCHIHA... ITACHI!


COME ON OUT...
...UZUMAKI NARUTO.


NARUTO


Number 366: Brothers





NO...

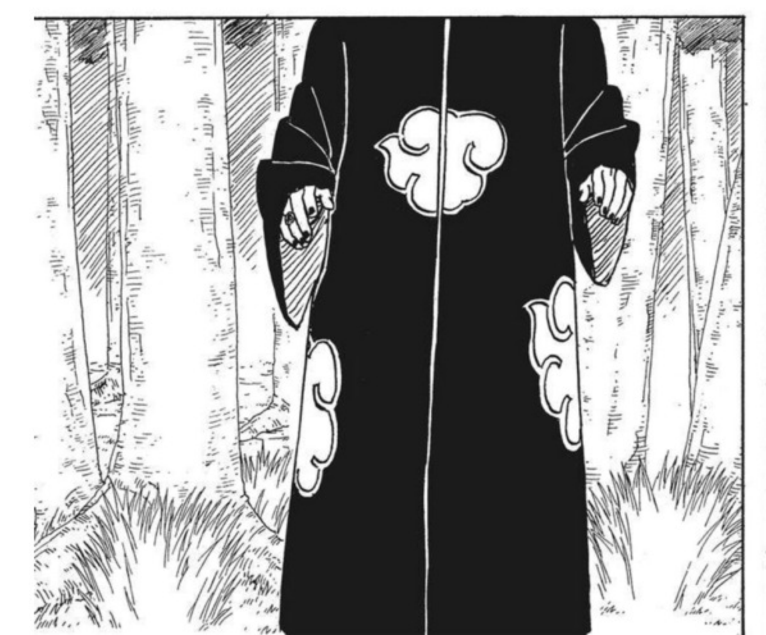
I JUST WANT TO TALK...

...

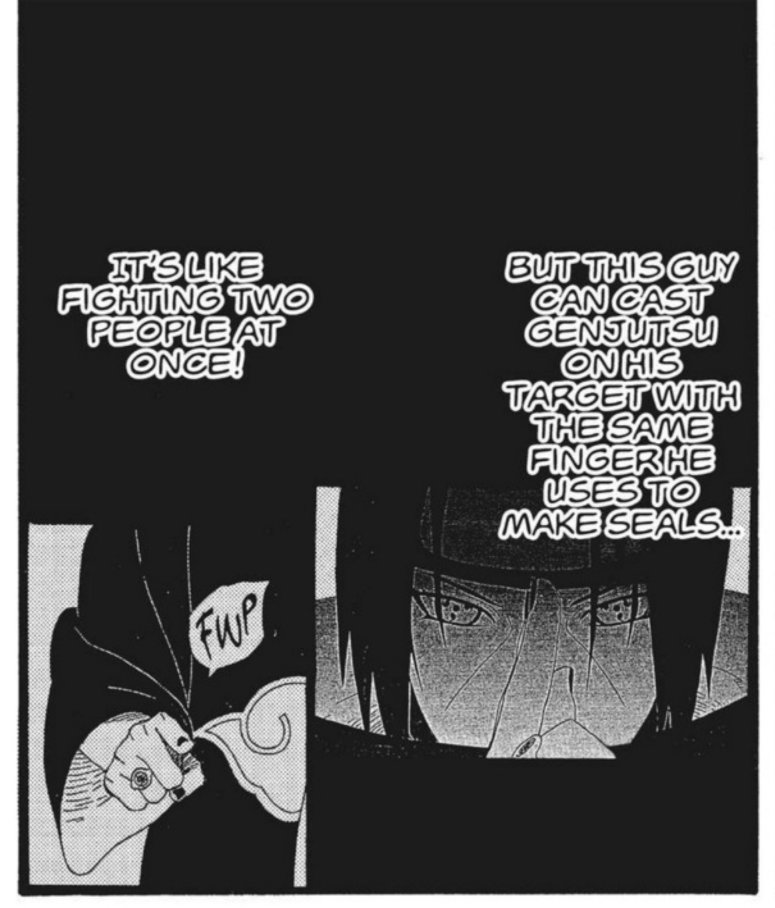

READ THIS WAY

ZWISH
SWISH
ARGH!
SHUNK
SHUNK
WAH!!
BOOF
BOOF

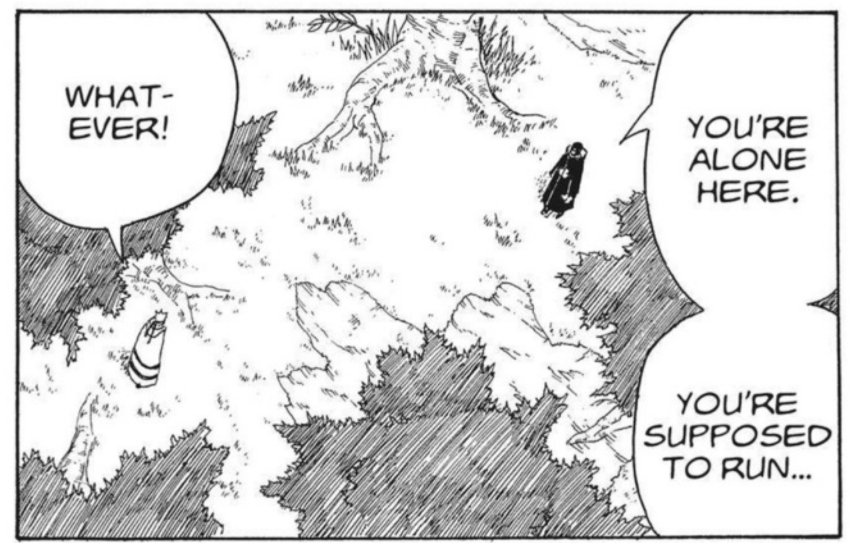

YEAH, RIGHT! LIKE I'D EVER TRUST YOU!



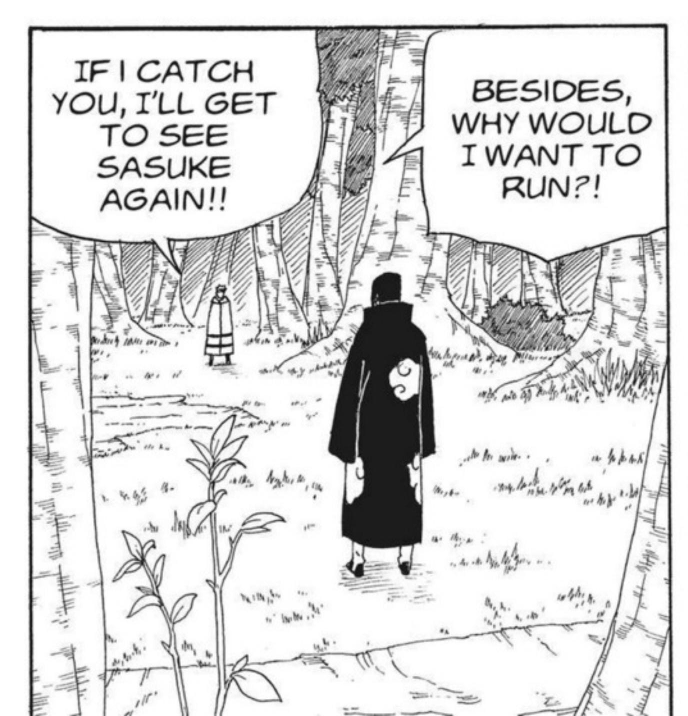

WHEN YOU FACE THE SHARINGAN, IF ONE ON ONE, YOU DEFINITELY RUN...
IF TWO ON ONE, GO FOR HIS BACK...!

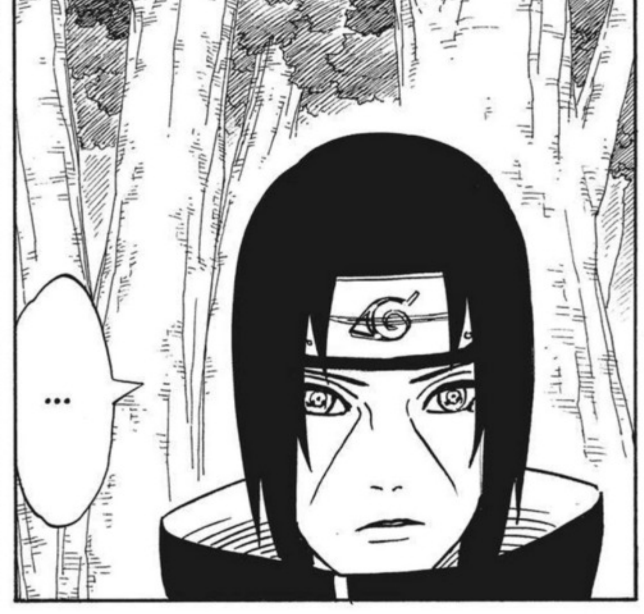

BUT THIS GUY CAN CAST GENJUTSU ON HIS TARGET WITH THE SAME FINGER HE USES TO MAKE SEALS...
IT'S LIKE FIGHTING TWO PEOPLE AT ONCE!
FWP


DIDN'T GRANNY CHIYO TEACH YOU ANYTHING ABOUT FIGHTING THE SHARIN-GAN?


YOU'RE ALONE HERE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RUN...
WHAT-EVER!

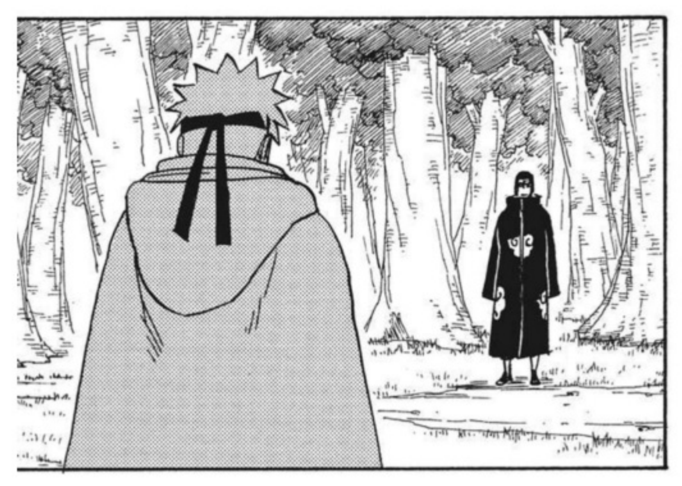

I CAN BE ANY NUMBER FROM ONE TO ONE THOUSAND!


BESIDES, WHY WOULD I WANT TO RUN?!
IF I CATCH YOU, I'LL GET TO SEE SASUKE AGAIN!!









WE MAY NOT BE BLOOD...

...BUT HE'S MORE OF A BROTHER TO ME THAN YOU ARE TO HIM!!!



...
RRROAR!!
WHSSH
FLICK
FLAP FLAP
?!
SCREECH
!



YOU ARE ALREADY WITHIN MY GENJUTSU.

UNH!

ZWOOO...

FLAP FLAP FLAP

...I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.

I JUST WANT TO TALK.

?!


THUMP
THUMP
I'M LETTING MYSELF IN, TSUNADE.

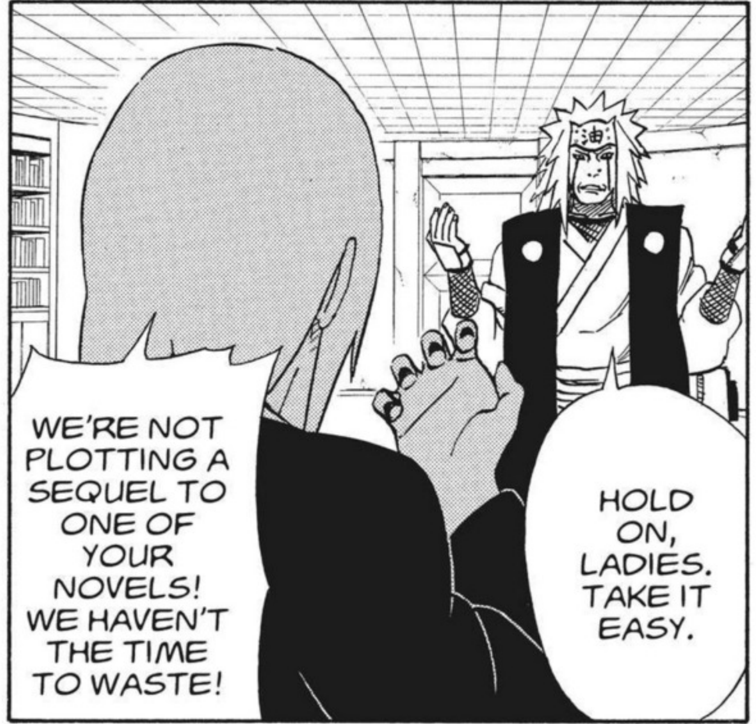

WHAT NEWS, JIRAIYA...?
KLAK


I'VE PIN-POINTED THE AKATSUKI LEADER'S LOCA-TION!


KLATTER
WHAT?!
ARE YOU SURE?!


TELL ME!
LADY TSUNADE! WE MUST USE THIS INFORMATION FOR A SURPRISE ATTACK!


READ THIS WAY

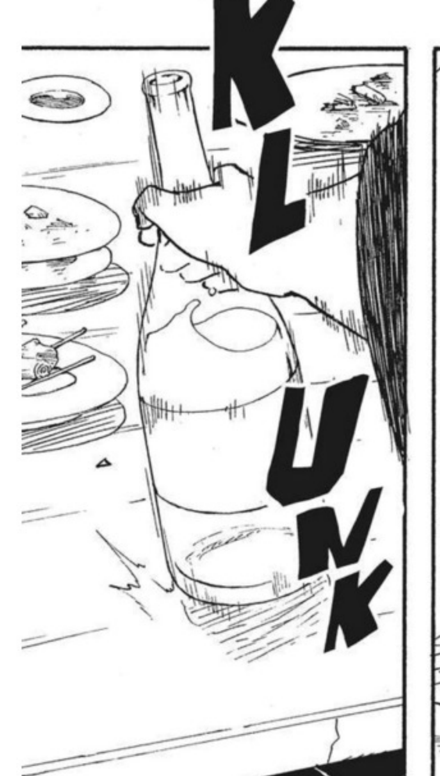

HOLD ON, LADIES. TAKE IT EASY.
WE'RE NOT PLOTTING A SEQUEL TO ONE OF YOUR NOVELS! WE HAVEN'T THE TIME TO WASTE!


BUT IT'S DANGEROUS TO RUSH PELL-MELL INTO THINGS.
ESPECIALLY WITH THE STAKES AS HIGH AS THEY ARE...


WHAT ...?!
LET'S GRAB A DRINK, YOU AND ME, JUST THE TWO OF US. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING THERE.

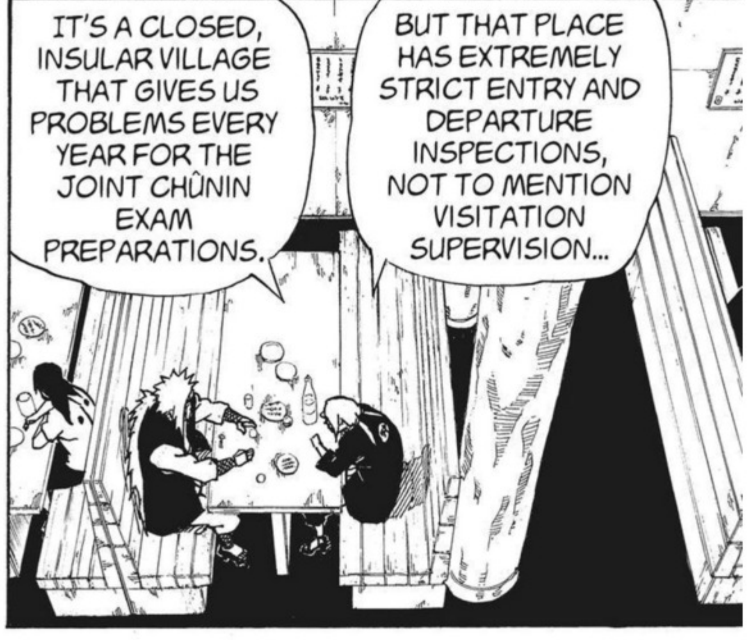

IRK
FOOL! I AM THE HOKAGE!
I CAN'T JUST GO OUT DRINKING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY! HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR YOUR FELLOW SHINOBI???

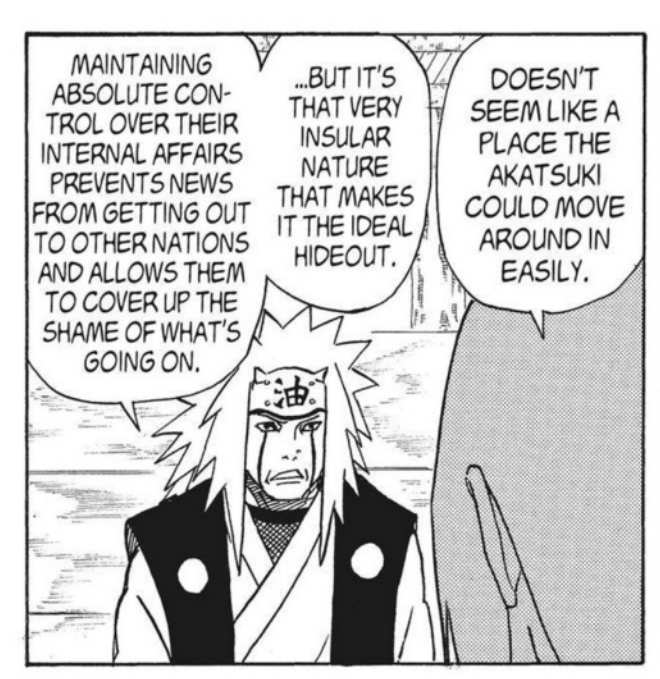

酒酒屋
(BAR SAKÉ)

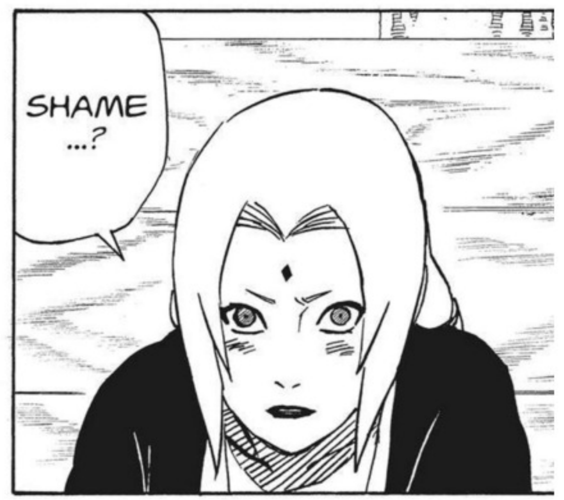

KLUNK

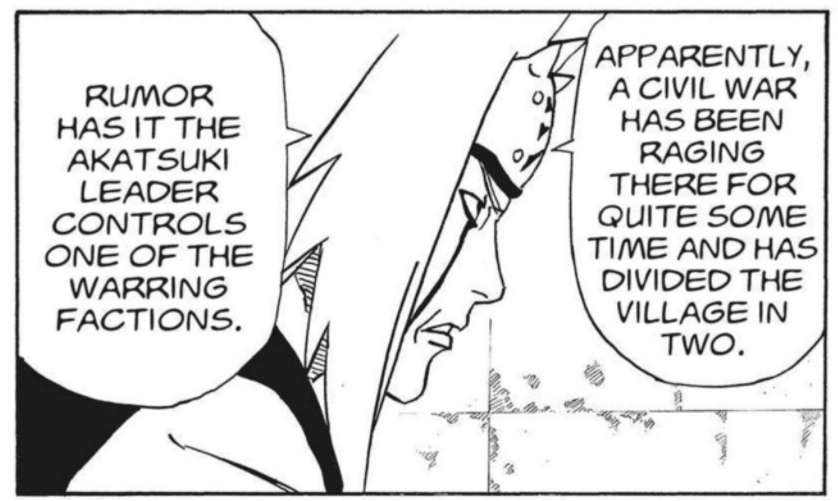

PHEW-WEE
UH... YOU REALLY OUGHT TO TAKE YOUR OWN WORDS A BIT MORE TO HEART...
YOU **ARE** HOKAGE, AFTER ALL.


SO...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE AKATSUKI LEADER IS IN THE HIDDEN RAIN VILLAGE?

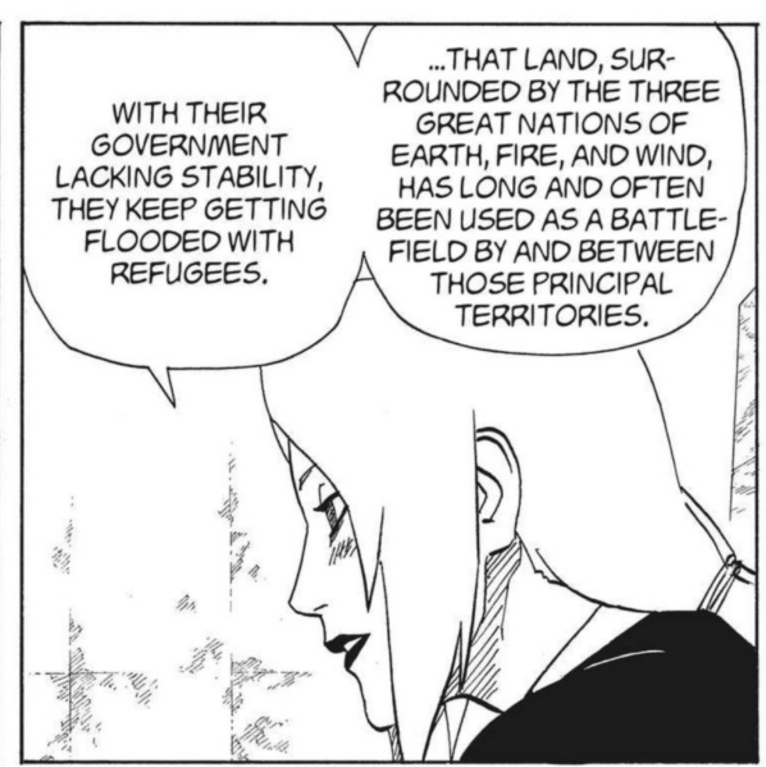

BUT THAT PLACE HAS EXTREMELY STRICT ENTRY AND DEPARTURE INSPECTIONS, NOT TO MENTION VISITATION SUPERVISION...
IT'S A CLOSED, INSULAR VILLAGE THAT GIVES US PROBLEMS EVERY YEAR FOR THE JOINT CHÛNIN EXAM PREPARATIONS.


DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A PLACE THE AKATSUKI COULD MOVE AROUND IN EASILY.
...BUT IT'S THAT VERY INSULAR NATURE THAT MAKES IT THE IDEAL HIDEOUT.
MAINTAINING ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS PREVENTS NEWS FROM GETTING OUT TO OTHER NATIONS AND ALLOWS THEM TO COVER UP THE SHAME OF WHAT'S GOING ON.

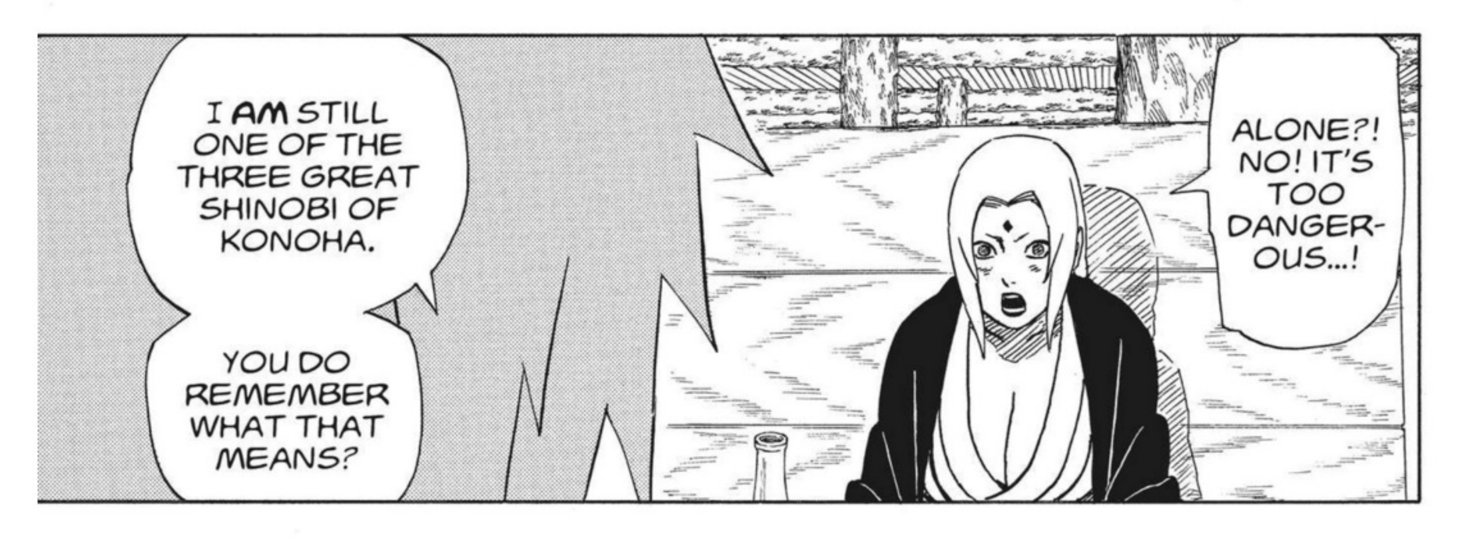

SHAME ...?

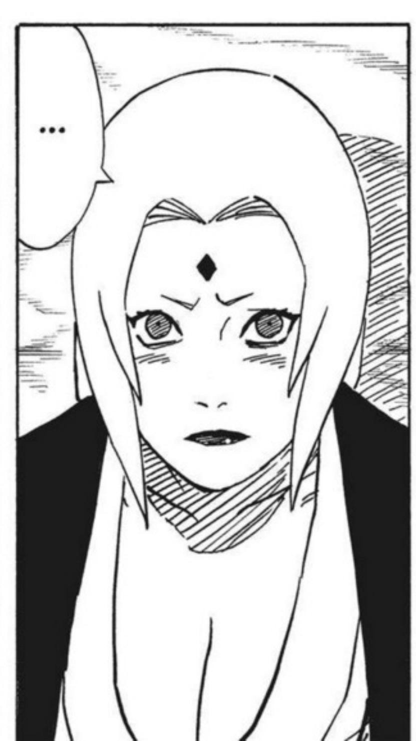

APPARENTLY, A CIVIL WAR HAS BEEN RAGING THERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME AND HAS DIVIDED THE VILLAGE IN TWO.
RUMOR HAS IT THE AKATSUKI LEADER CONTROLS ONE OF THE WARRING FACTIONS.


READ THIS WAY


...THAT LAND, SURROUNDED BY THE THREE GREAT NATIONS OF EARTH, FIRE, AND WIND, HAS LONG AND OFTEN BEEN USED AS A BATTLEFIELD BY AND BETWEEN THOSE PRINCIPAL TERRITORIES.
WITH THEIR GOVERNMENT LACKING STABILITY, THEY KEEP GETTING FLOODED WITH REFUGEES.


THAT'S WHY I'VE GOT TO GO IN ALONE, FIRST...
...AND CONFIRM WHETHER THAT INTEL IS REAL OR NOT.
WE CAN TALK STRATEGY AFTER THAT...

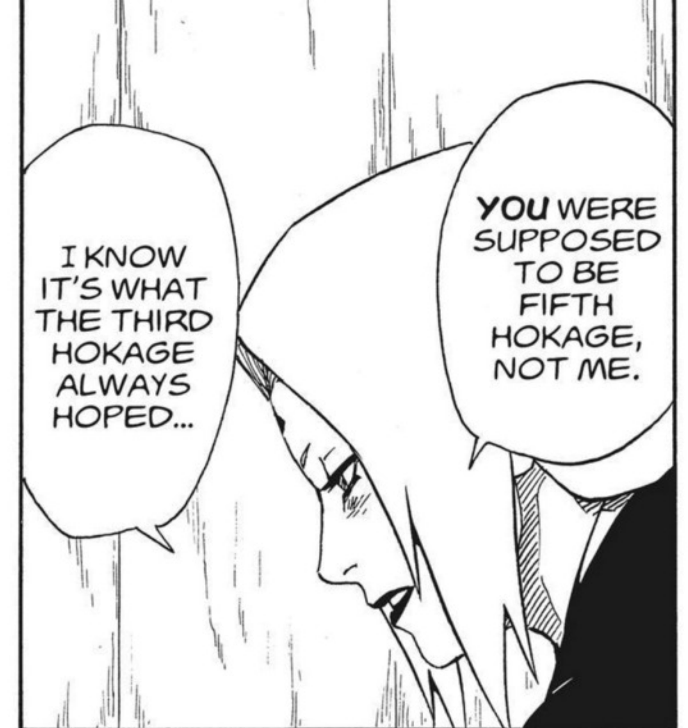

ALONE?! NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS...!
I **AM** STILL ONE OF THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA.
YOU DO REMEMBER WHAT THAT MEANS?

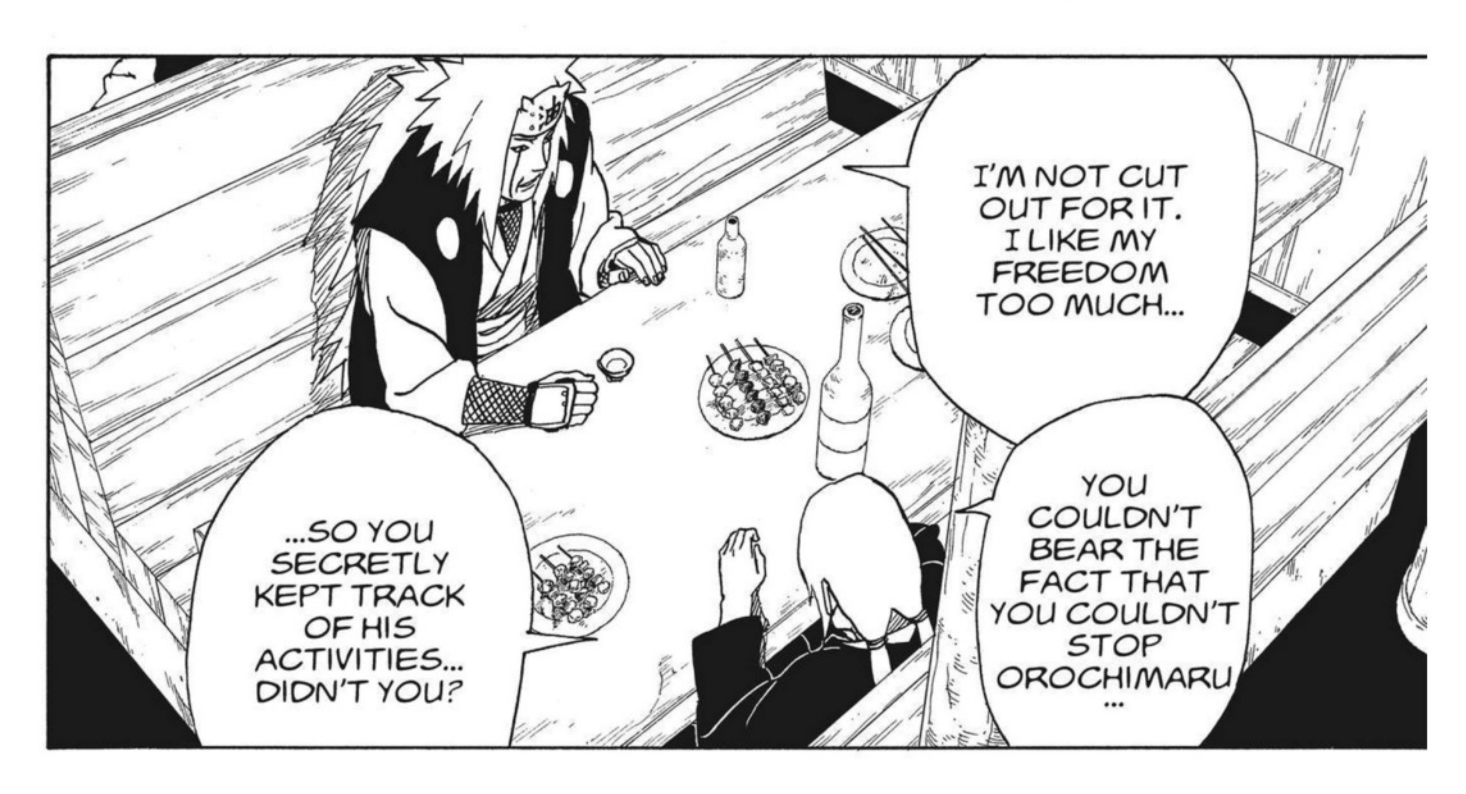

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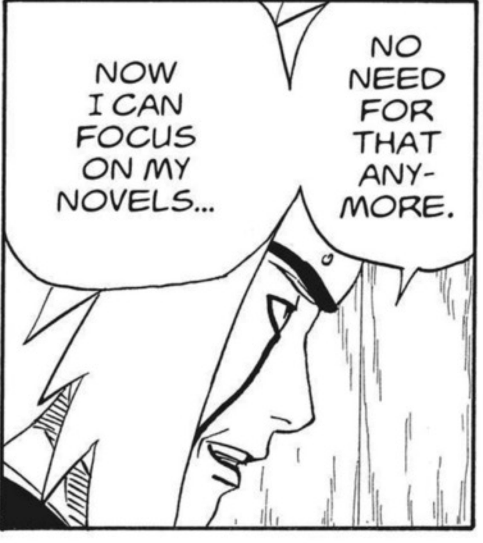

I JUST FEEL BAD... THAT YOU KEEP GETTING STUCK WITH SUCH... UNFORTUNATE ASSIGNMENTS.


HA HA HA HA!
WHY SO RUEFUL ALL OF A SUDDEN ?!


YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE FIFTH HOKAGE, NOT ME.
I KNOW IT'S WHAT THE THIRD HOKAGE ALWAYS HOPED...

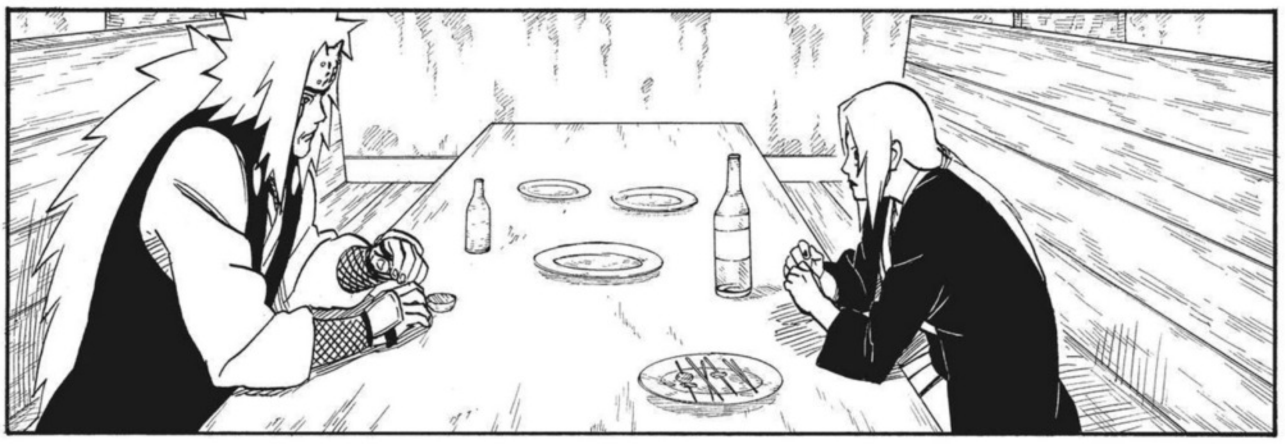

I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR IT. I LIKE MY FREEDOM TOO MUCH...
YOU COULDN'T BEAR THE FACT THAT YOU COULDN'T STOP OROCHIMARU...
...SO YOU SECRETLY KEPT TRACK OF HIS ACTIVITIES... DIDN'T YOU?

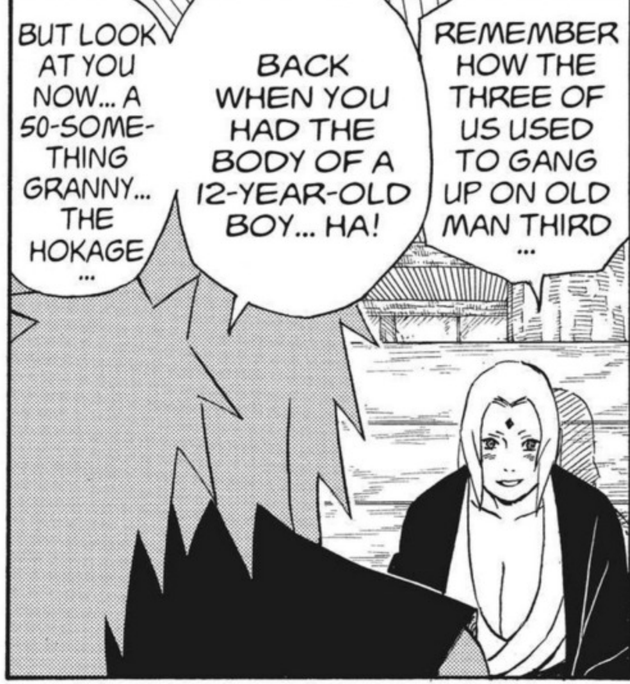

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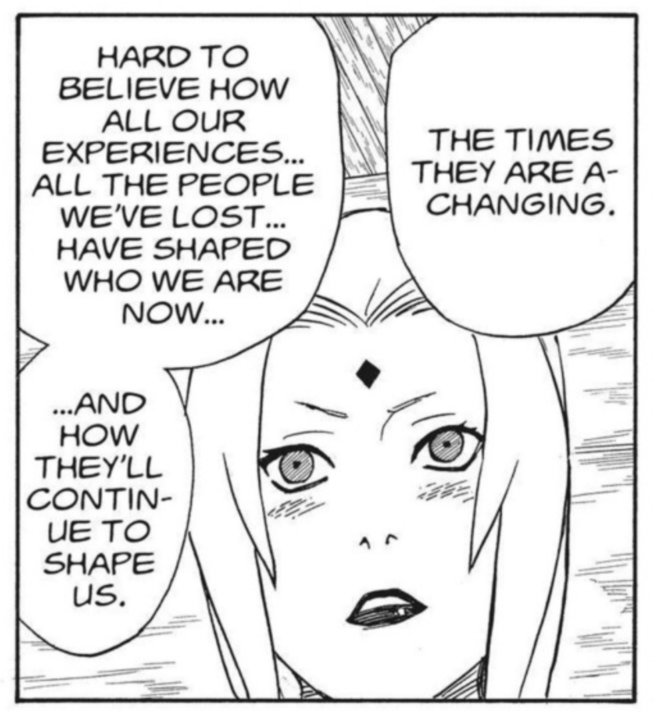

NO NEED FOR THAT ANY-MORE.
NOW I CAN FOCUS ON MY NOVELS...

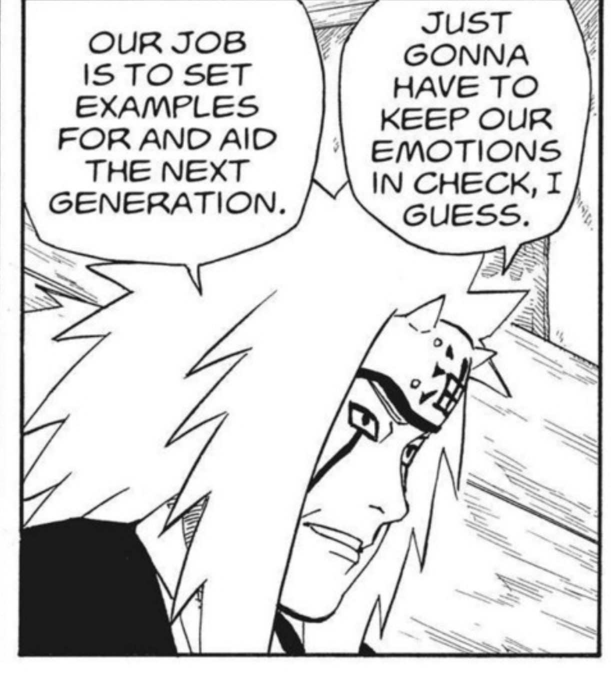

FACT IS STRANGER THAN FICTION, EH...
I NEVER IMAGINED HE WOULD DIE...


READ THIS WAY




REMEMBER HOW THE THREE OF US USED TO GANG UP ON OLD MAN THIRD ...
BACK WHEN YOU HAD THE BODY OF A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY... HA!
BUT LOOK AT YOU NOW... A 50-SOME-THING GRANNY... THE HOKAGE ...


THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING.
HARD TO BELIEVE HOW ALL OUR EXPERIENCES... ALL THE PEOPLE WE'VE LOST... HAVE SHAPED WHO WE ARE NOW...
...AND HOW THEY'LL CONTIN-UE TO SHAPE US.

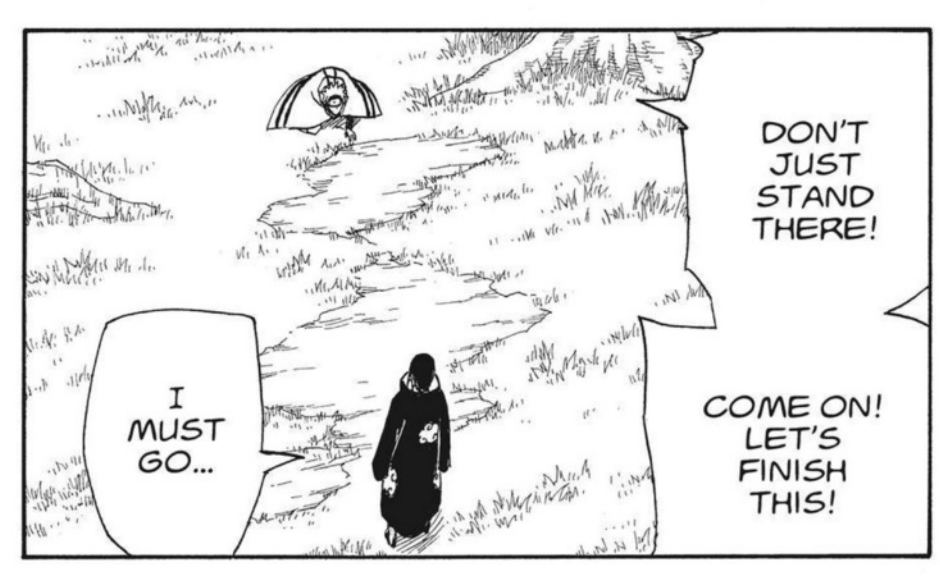

JUST GONNA HAVE TO KEEP OUR EMOTIONS IN CHECK, I GUESS.
OUR JOB IS TO SET EXAMPLES FOR AND AID THE NEXT GENERATION.


FOR THAT CAUSE, I'LL GLADLY RISK MY LIFE.
WISDOM... IT'S THE ONE THING THAT MAKES GROWING OLD **WORTH** IT...




WHAT'S GOING ON?

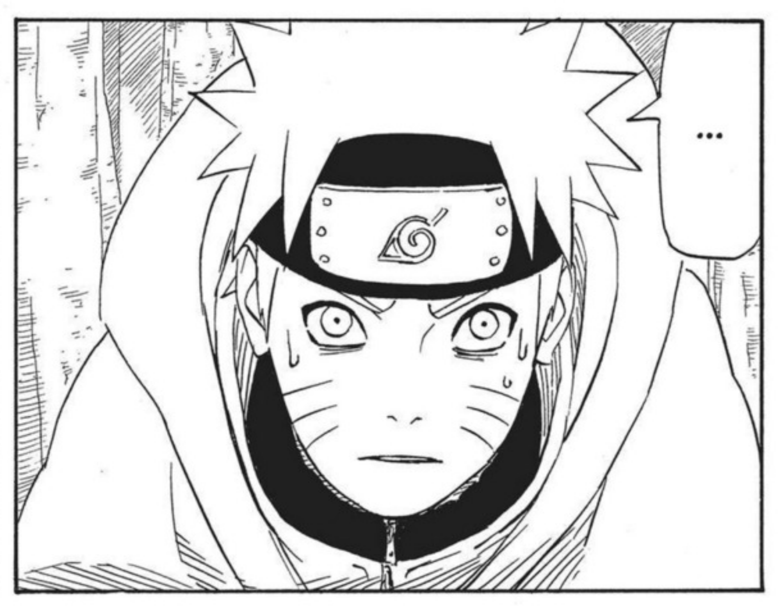

...


DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
COME ON! LET'S FINISH THIS!
I MUST GO...

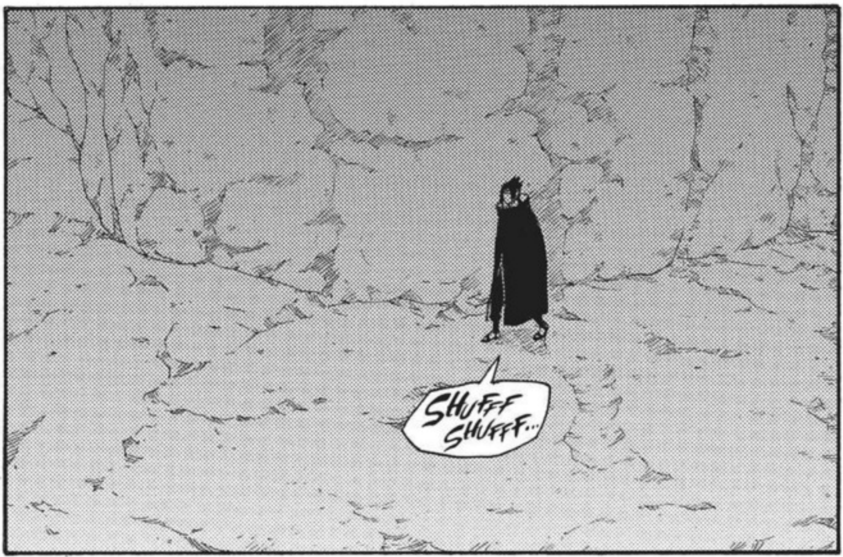

I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.

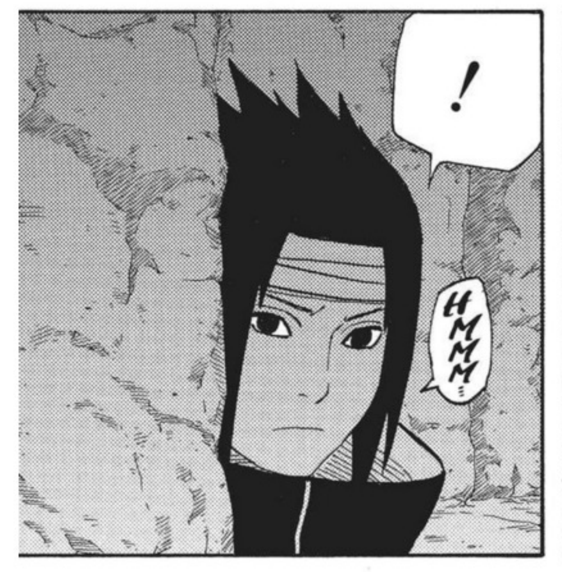

SWOOSH...
A SHADOW DOPPELGANGER...!

READ THIS WAY

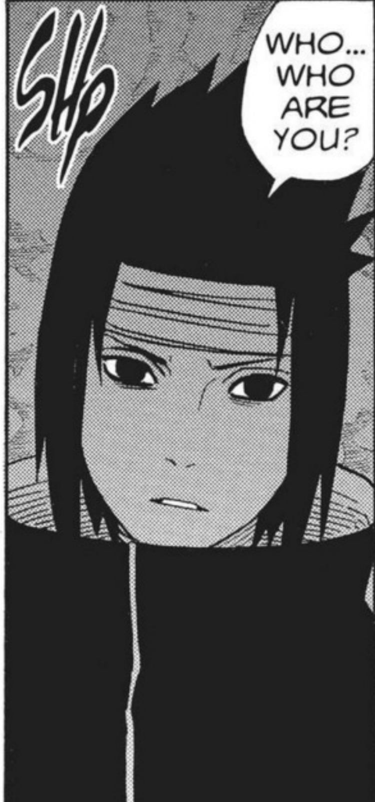


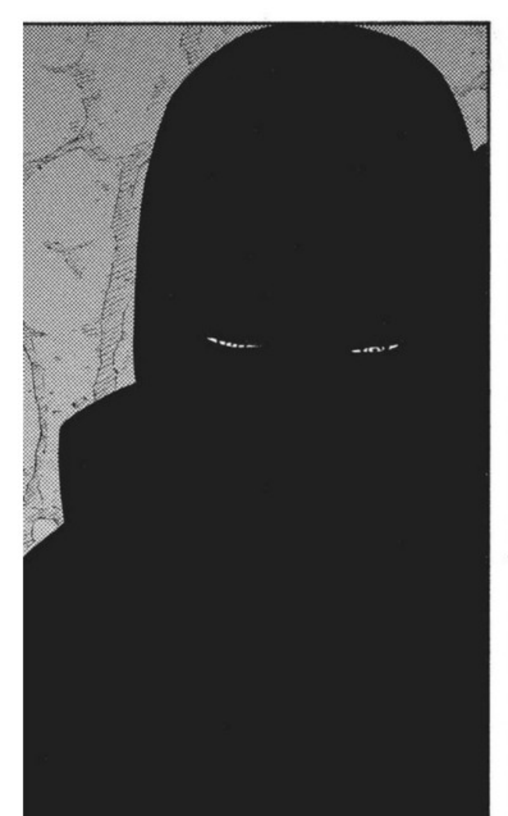




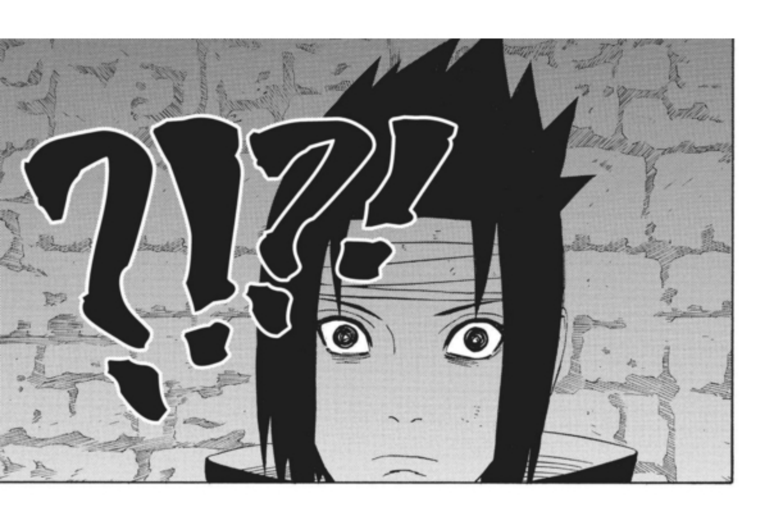






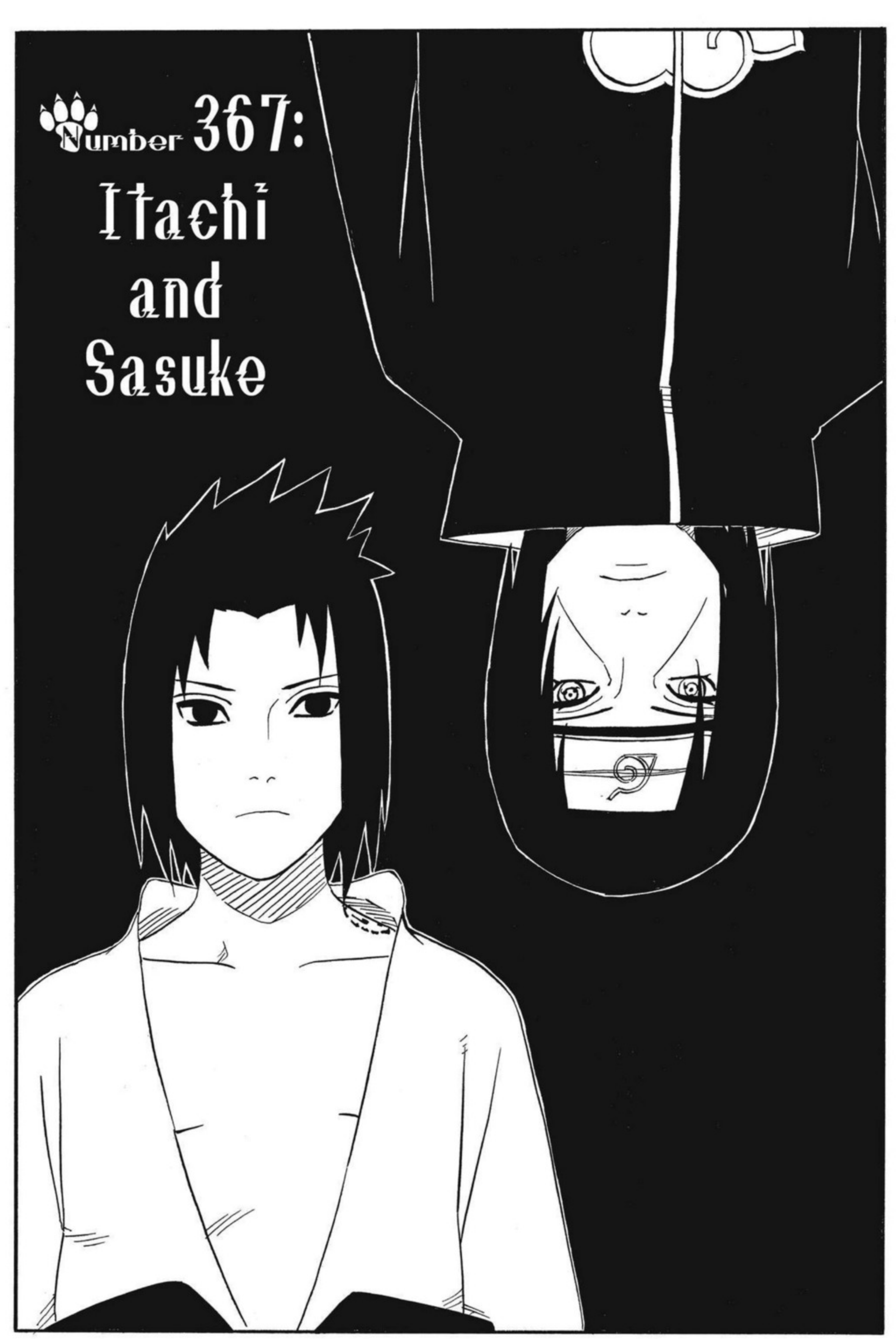


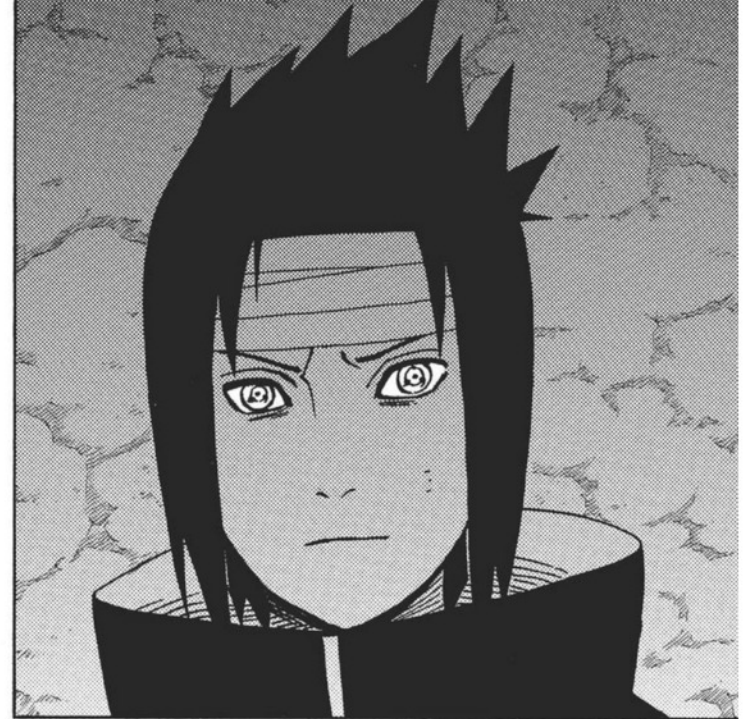
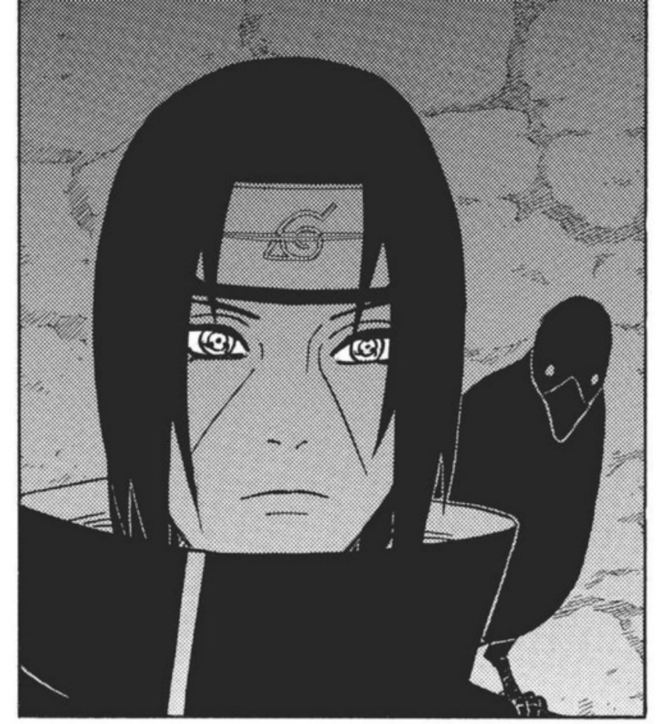

... SASUKE.
IT'S ME...

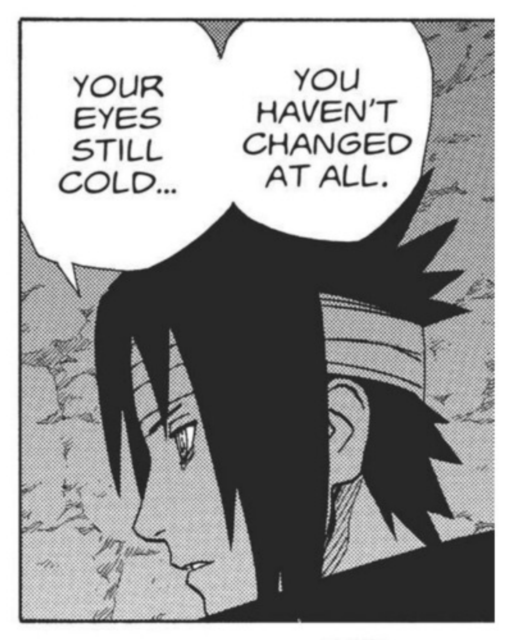

?!?!

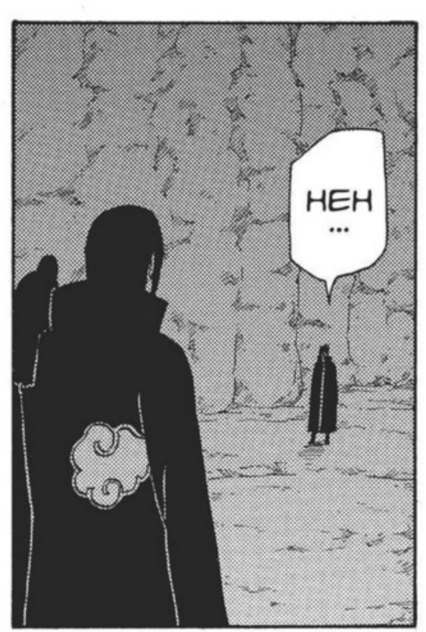

SWOO...


NARUTO


Number 367:
Itachi and Sasuke

YOU LOOK TALLER...

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
YOUR EYES STILL COLD...

YOU'RE NOT...
...GOING TO JUST GO CRAZY AND CHARGE ME LIKE LAST TIME, ARE YOU?

HEH ...



...!

YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME...

SWISH

TUP

SH


CAW!
TH
KK

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH HATRED FOR YOU I HOLD IN MY HEART...

... HOW STRONG IT HAS MADE ME...

...YOU. KNOW. NOTHING!

SHHH

BZZZZ

ING

ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP-ZAP

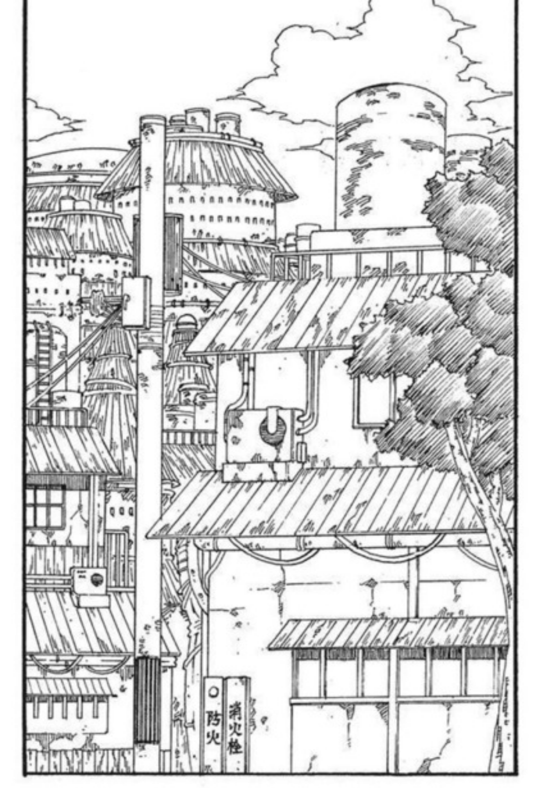
?!

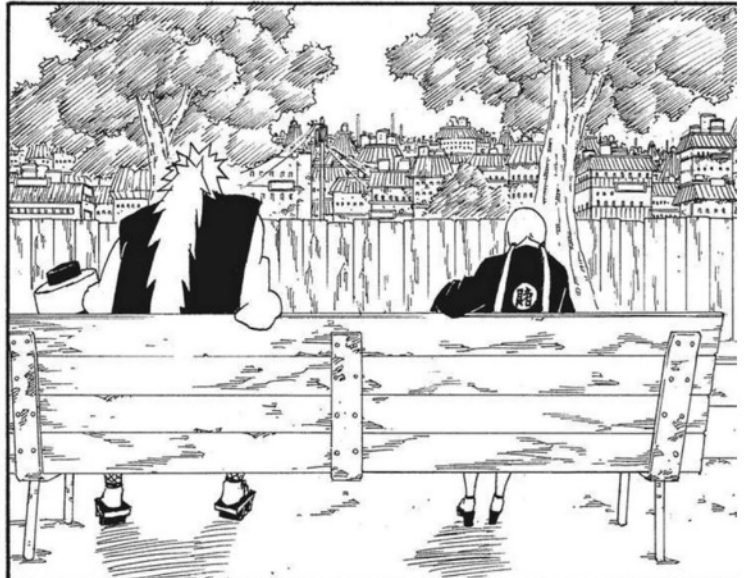
BZZZAP





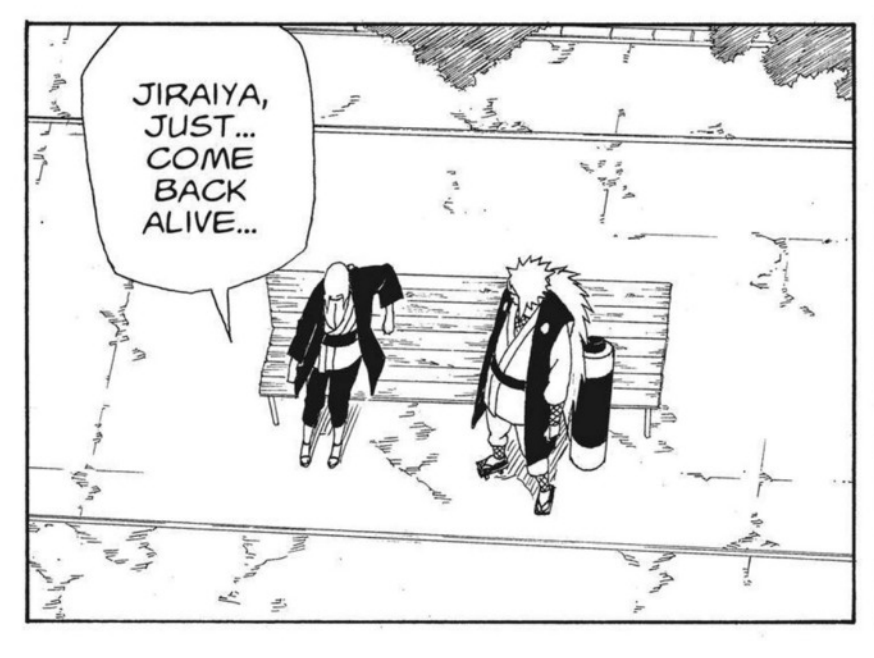

YOU'RE AN EVEN WORSE DRUNK THAN ME.
WHY DON'T WE GO SIT SOMEWHERE AND REST.





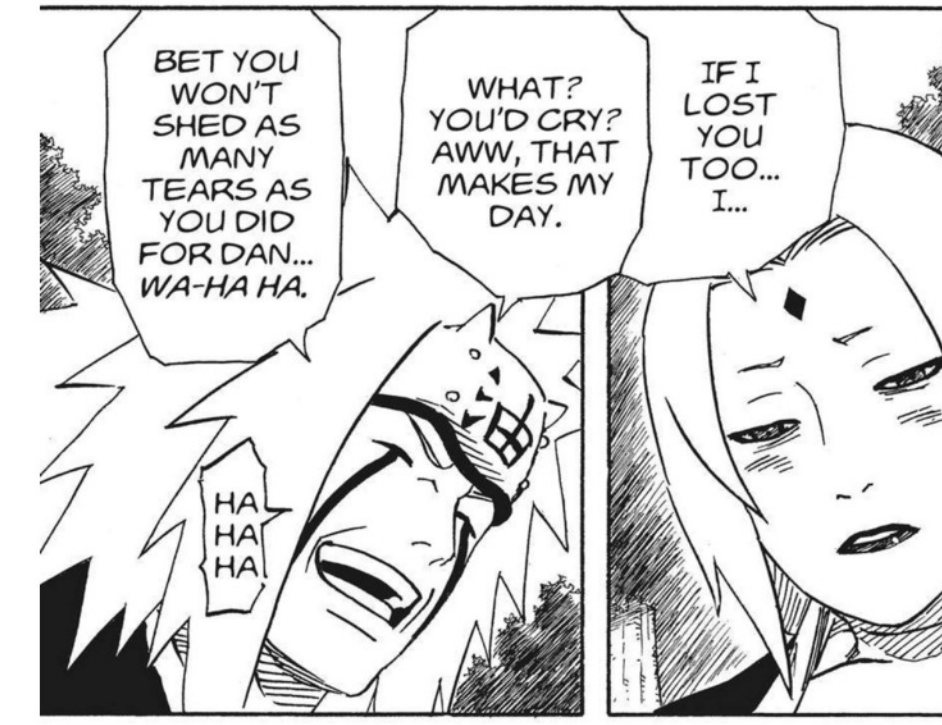

THE AKATSUKI...
...THEY'VE MANAGED TO ASSEMBLE QUITE A FORMIDABLE CREW.
WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW STRONG THEY ARE...
...AND YET YOU'RE GOING TO INTENTIONALLY LEAP RIGHT INTO THEIR LAIR?!


SWSH
I SHOULD GET GOING.


JIRAIYA, JUST... COME BACK ALIVE...


READ THIS WAY

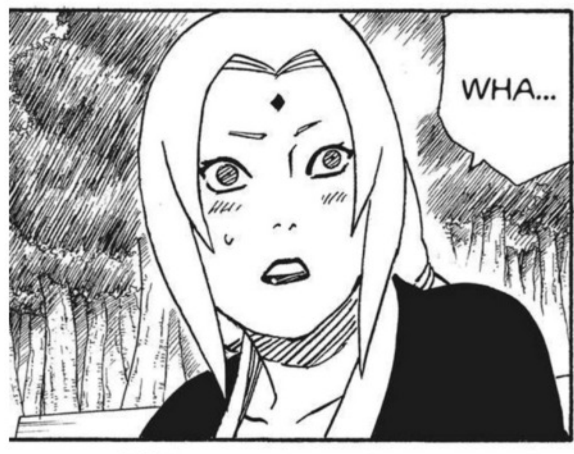

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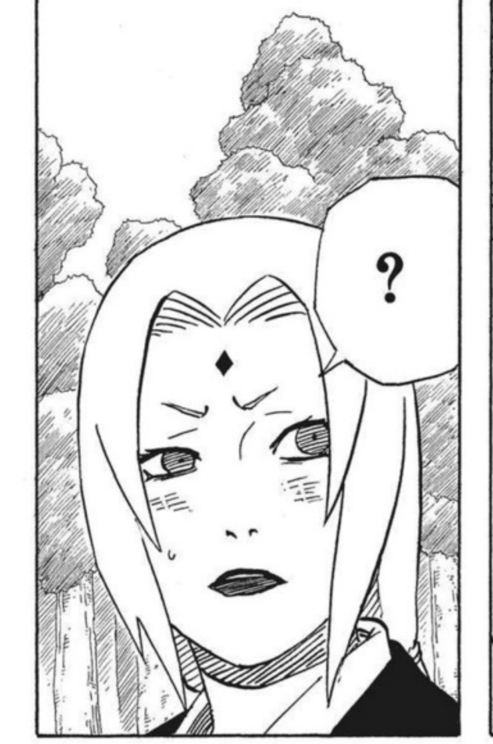

IF I LOST YOU TOO... I...
WHAT? YOU'D CRY? AWW, THAT MAKES MY DAY.
BET YOU WON'T SHED AS MANY TEARS AS YOU DID FOR DAN... *WA-HA HA.*
HA HA HA


HUSH, FOOL!


A BET, THEN...
...YOU GAMBLE EVERY-THING ON ME DYING.
SINCE YOU ALWAYS LOSE.


BUT IF I MAKE IT BACK **ALIVE**...

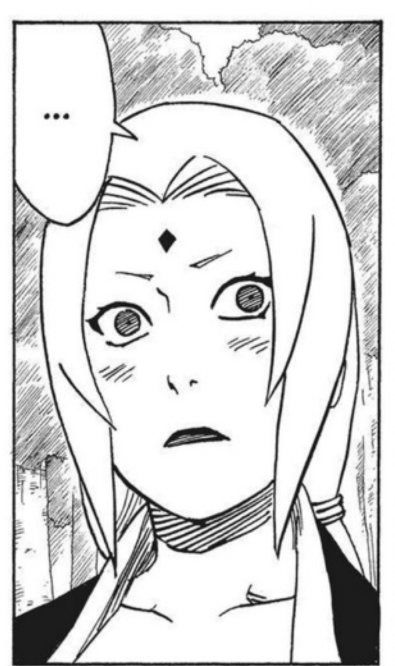

WHA...

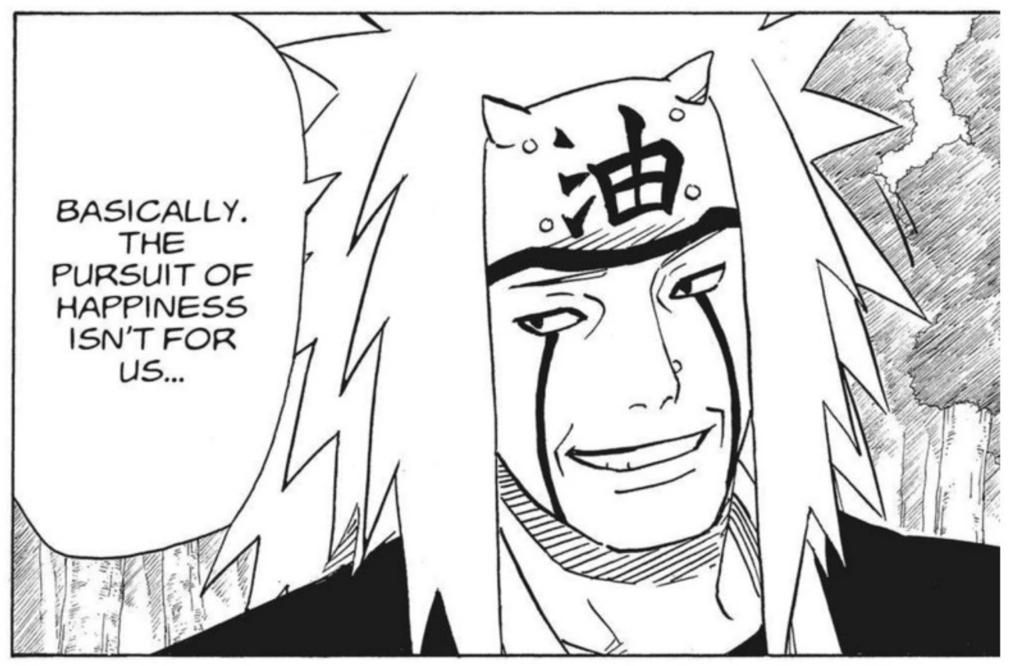

?


GWA-HA HA, JUST KIDDING, JUST KIDDING!
I'M SO GRATEFUL TO YOU, YOU KNOW.

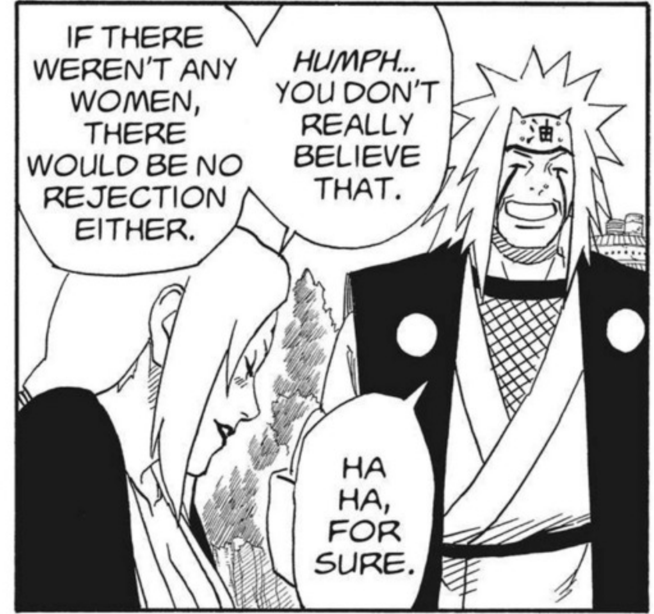

SO A MAN'S ONLY JOB IS TO BE STRONG?

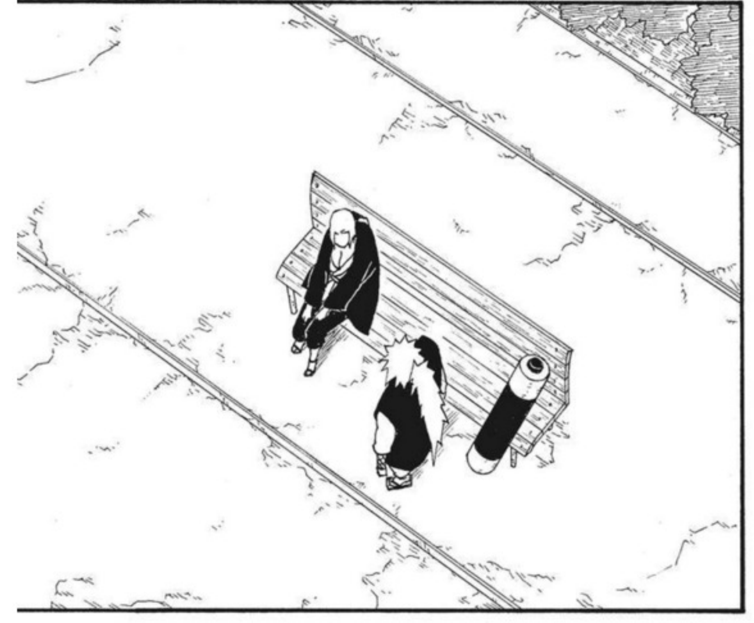

REJECTION MAKES MEN STRONGER.
IF YOU CAN'T LAUGH ABOUT IT... OR AT LEAST USE IT AS WRITING MATERIAL...
...YOU'RE NOT A REAL MAN.
MAKE-OUT PARADISE
SWISH...


...

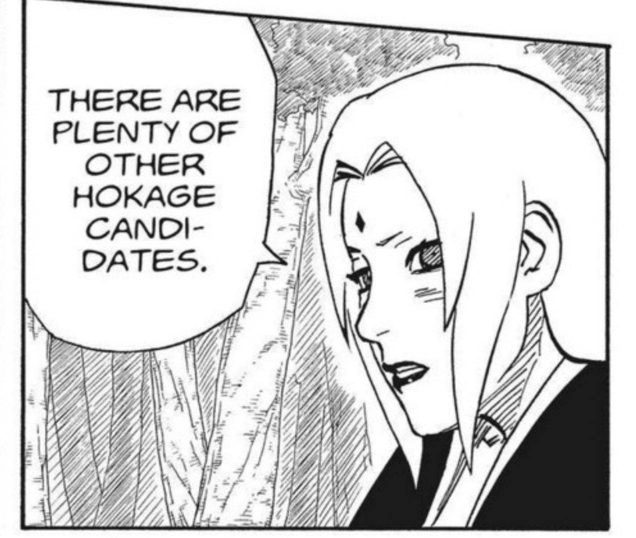

BASICALLY. THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS ISN'T FOR US...

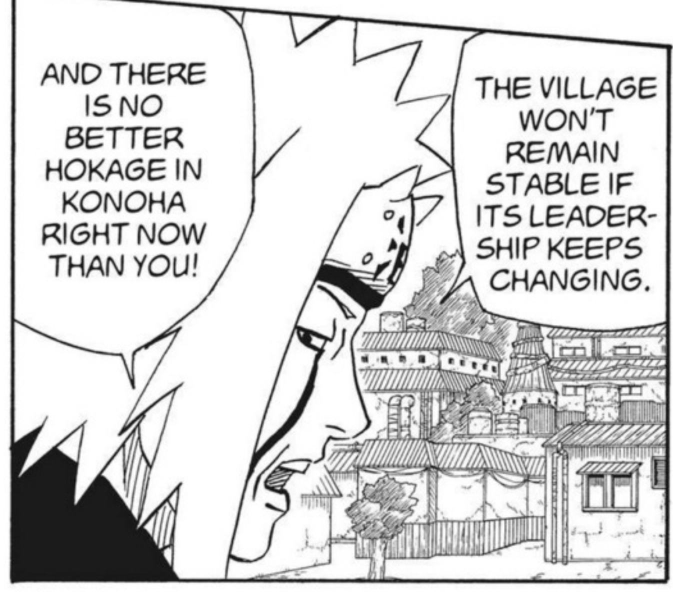

READ
THIS
WAY


HUMPH... YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT.
IF THERE WEREN'T ANY WOMEN, THERE WOULD BE NO REJECTION EITHER.
HA HA, FOR SURE.

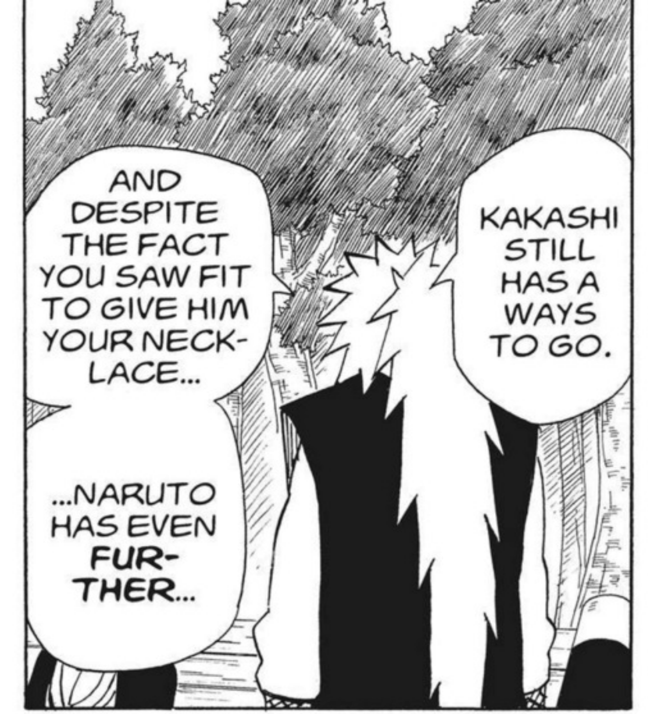



ANYTHING HAPPENS, YOU'LL SEND WORD VIA TOAD, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY.
NO THANKS. YOU STAY PUT.
THE VILLAGE IS DEPENDING ON YOU DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS.

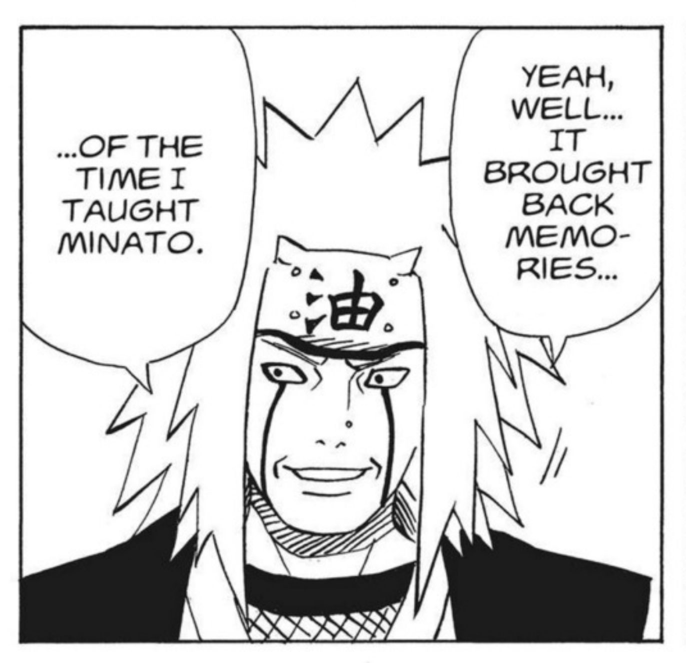

THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER HOKAGE CANDI-DATES.

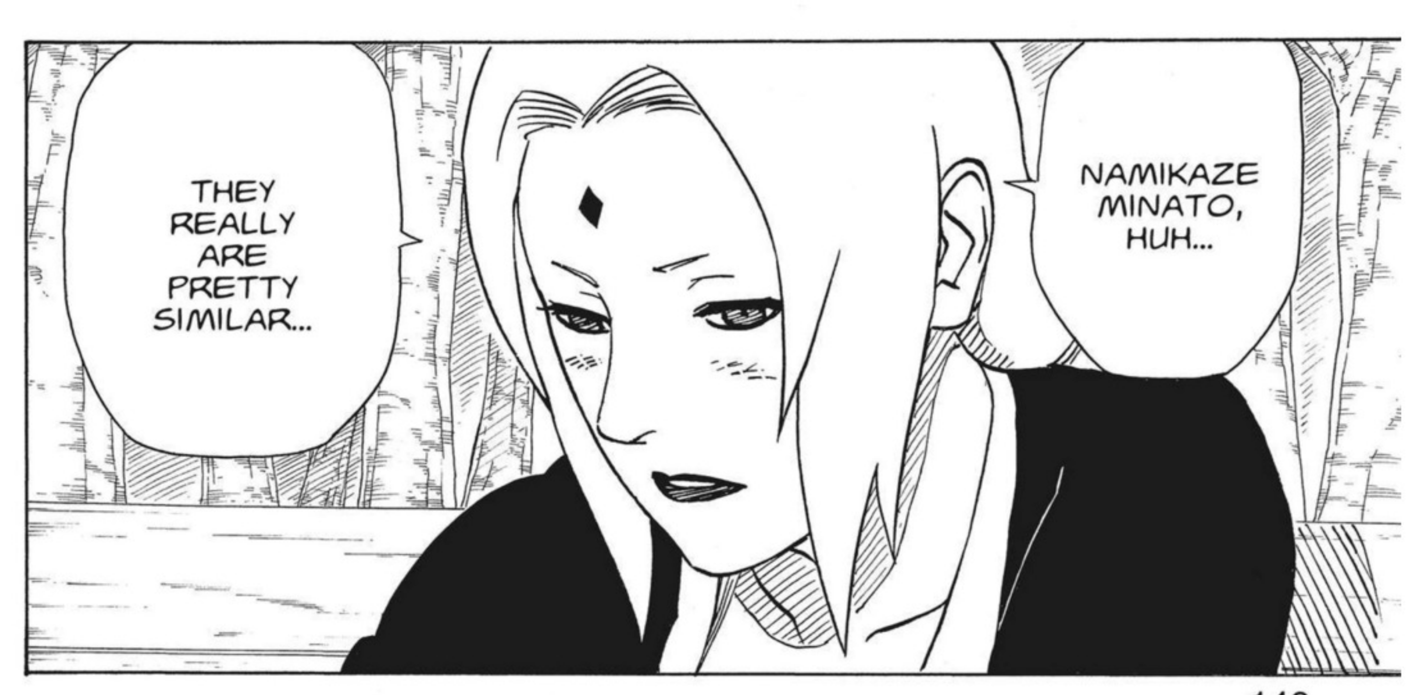

THE VILLAGE WON'T REMAIN STABLE IF ITS LEADER-SHIP KEEPS CHANGING.
AND THERE IS NO BETTER HOKAGE IN KONOHA RIGHT NOW THAN YOU!


THERE'S KAKASHI...
...AND EVENTUALLY, NARUTO.

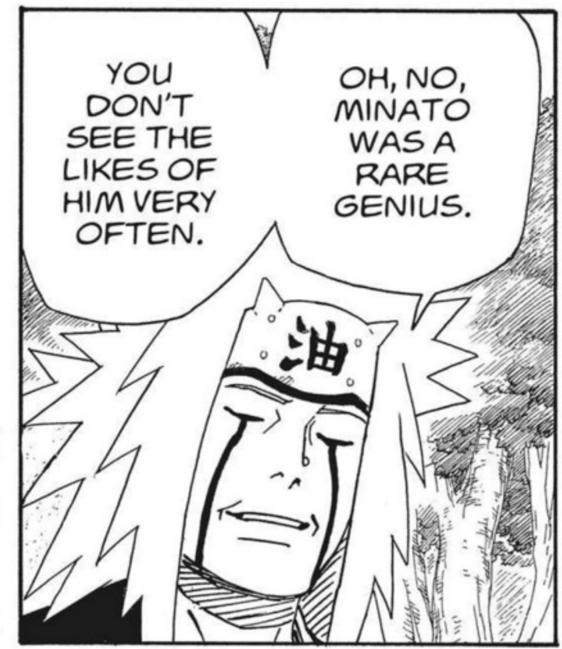

KAKASHI STILL HAS A WAYS TO GO.
AND DESPITE THE FACT YOU SAW FIT TO GIVE HIM YOUR NECKLACE...
...NARUTO HAS EVEN **FURTHER**...

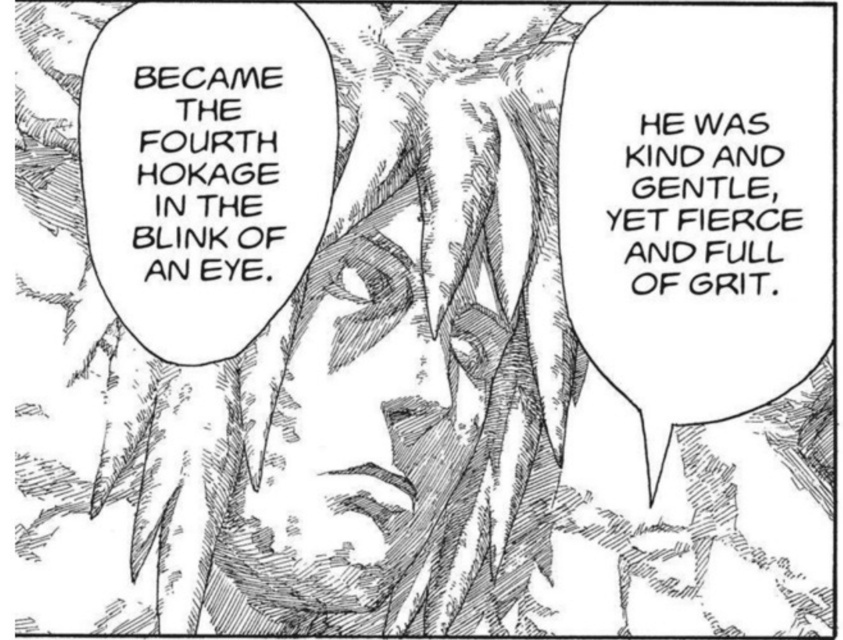

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, PUTTING SO MUCH OF YOUR ENERGY INTO TRAINING HIM...
...EVEN TEACHING HIM THE RASENGAN.

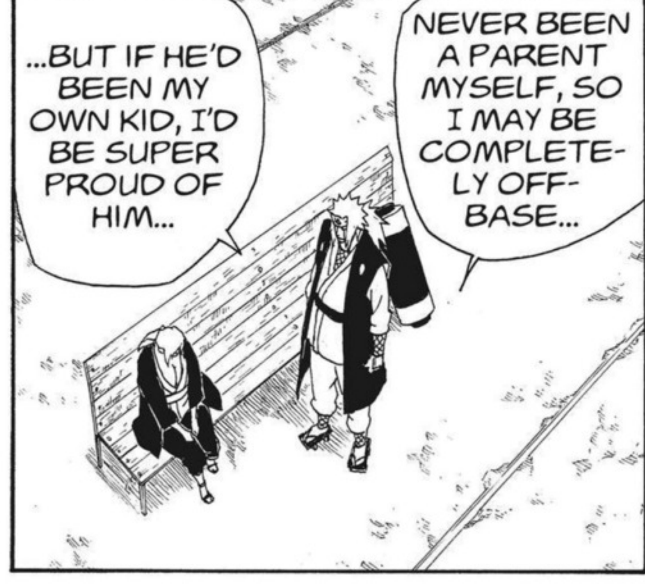

YEAH, WELL... IT BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES...
...OF THE TIME I TAUGHT MINATO.

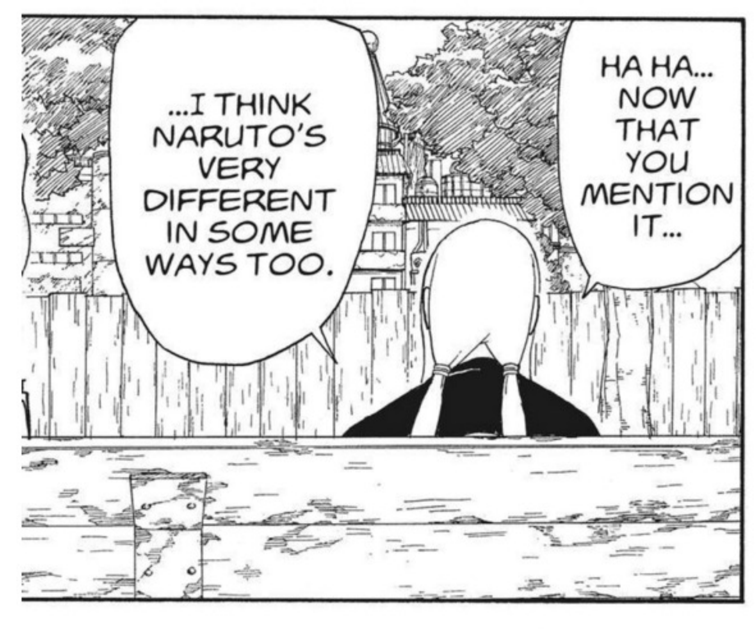

NAMIKAZE MINATO, HUH...
THEY REALLY ARE PRETTY SIMILAR...


READ THIS WAY


OH, NO, MINATO WAS A RARE GENIUS.
YOU DON'T SEE THE LIKES OF HIM VERY OFTEN.


HE WAS KIND AND GENTLE, YET FIERCE AND FULL OF GRIT.
BECAME THE FOURTH HOKAGE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.


NEVER BEEN A PARENT MYSELF, SO I MAY BE COMPLETELY OFF-BASE...
...BUT IF HE'D BEEN MY OWN KID, I'D BE SUPER PROUD OF HIM...

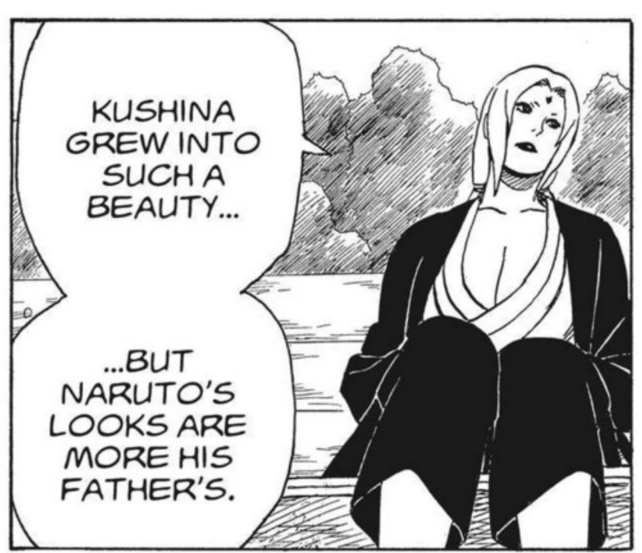

HA HA... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
...I THINK NARUTO'S VERY DIFFERENT IN SOME WAYS TOO.


HE'S MORE LIKE HIS MOTHER...


...
THAT FEMALE SHINOBI FROM THE LAND OF EDDIES...?

YEAH... HIS PER-SONALITY AND NINJUTSU STYLE...
...HE DEFINITELY GOT FROM UZUMAKI KUSHINA.



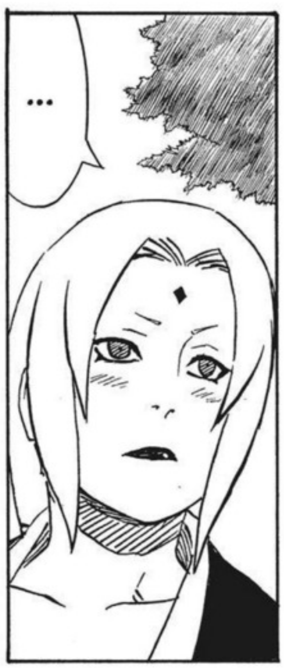






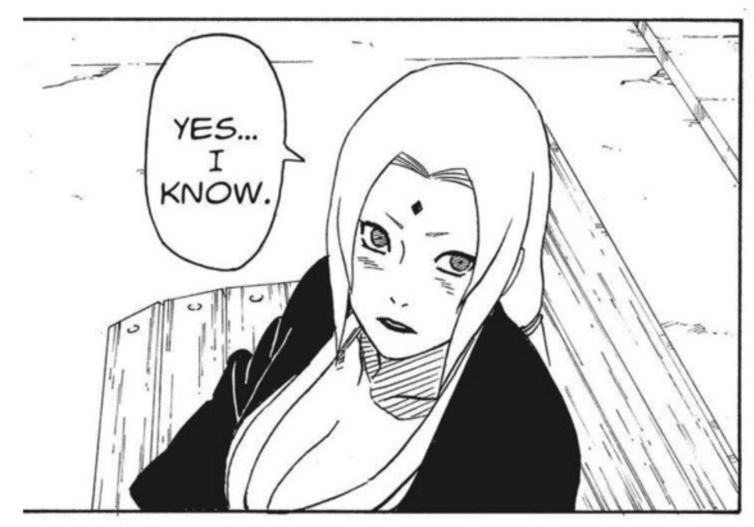

READ THIS WAY


NOW... I REALLY OUGHT TO GET GOING.
TAP

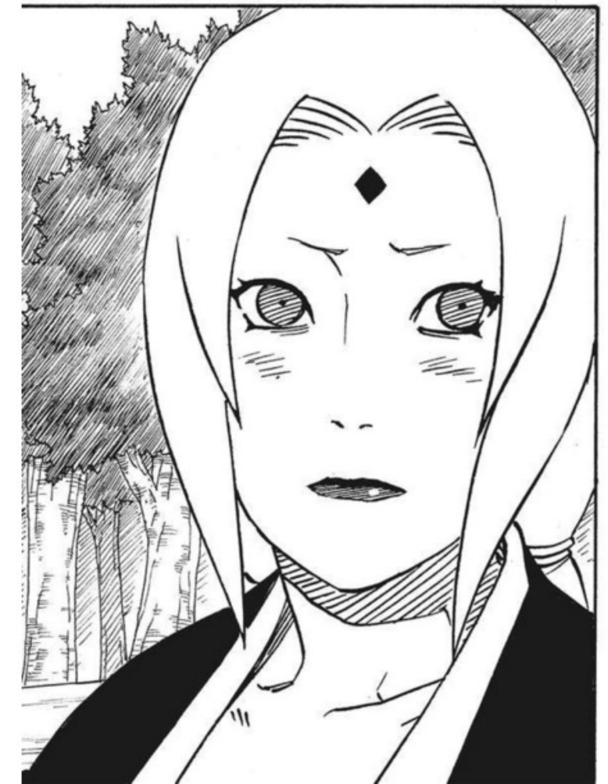

...

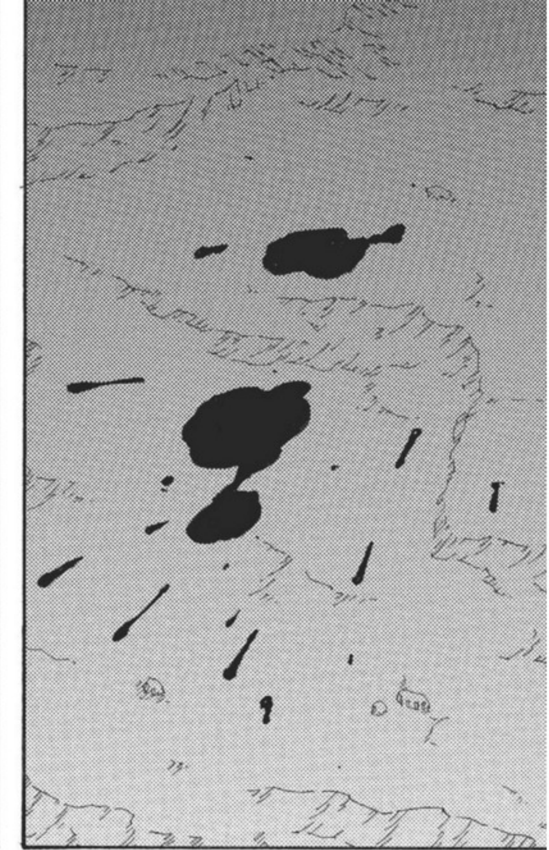

OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I HAD ONE LAST WARNING FOR YOU...
?
SWISH


...BEWARE THE FOUN-DATION.


YES... I KNOW.


GOOD. GLAD YOU DO!
WELL, THEN...




SHUP


FLAP FLAP

!

YOU'VE... GOTTEN STRONGER...

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP


READ THIS WAY


MEET ME AT THE UCHIHA HIDEOUT. ALONE.


WE'LL SETTLE THIS THERE.

VOOSH
PLIP PLOP PLIP...
AAAH
GLOP


ZWOO...
SPLASH


SQUELCH


VOOSH


INFILTRATION ACCOMPLISHED...
EXCEPTIONALLY EASILY, IN FACT...
WHISH
油



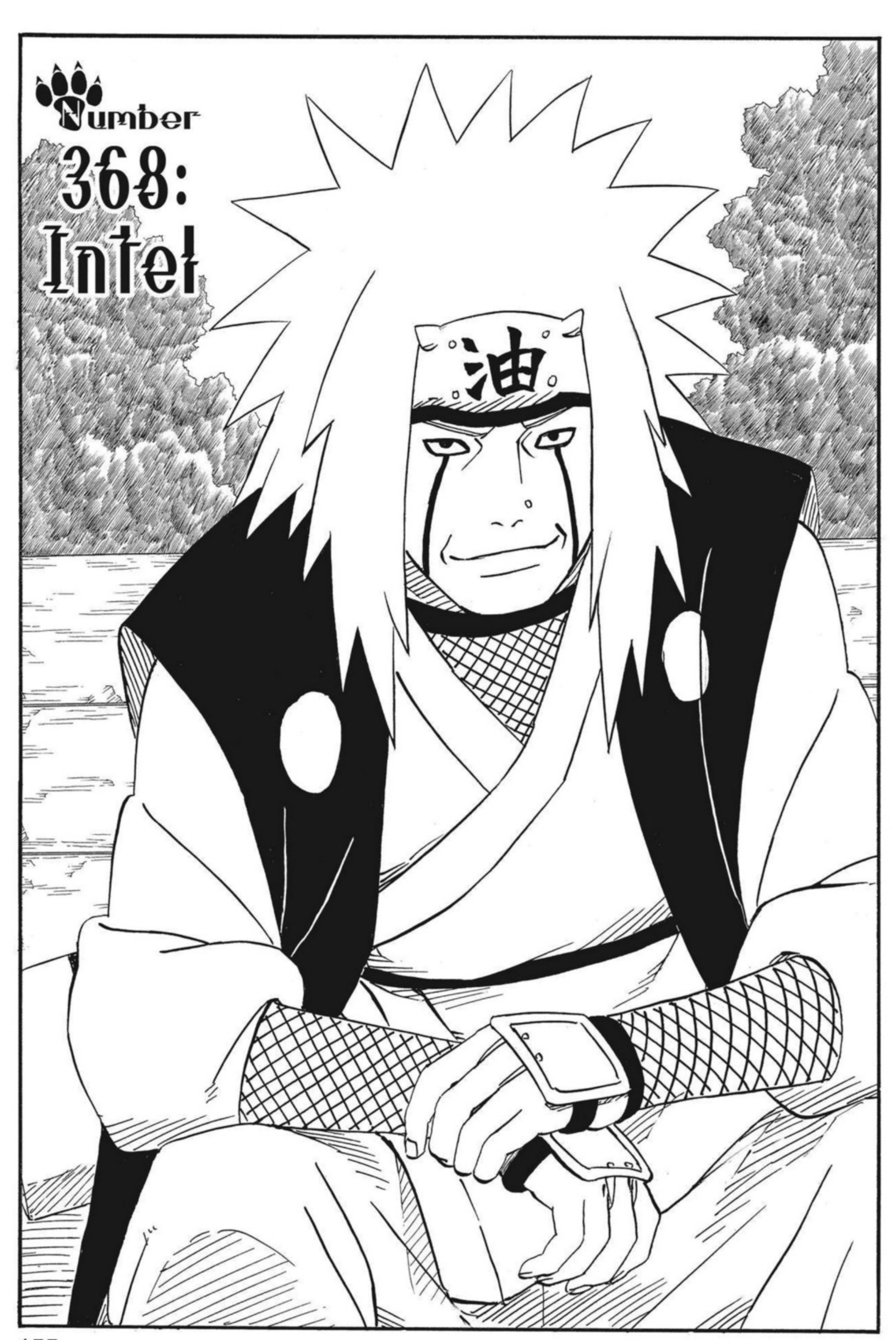
VOOSH

...TOO EASILY, PERHAPS?






NARUTO

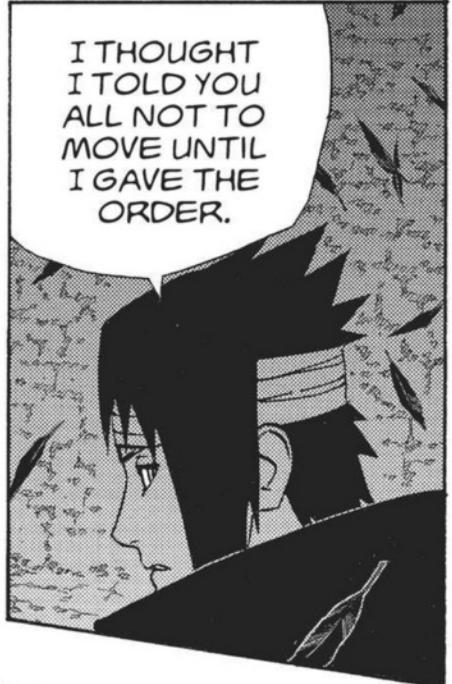

Number
368:
Intel
油


FLAP


FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER


READ THIS WAY


WHSSH
SASUKE!


I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU ALL NOT TO MOVE UNTIL I GAVE THE ORDER.

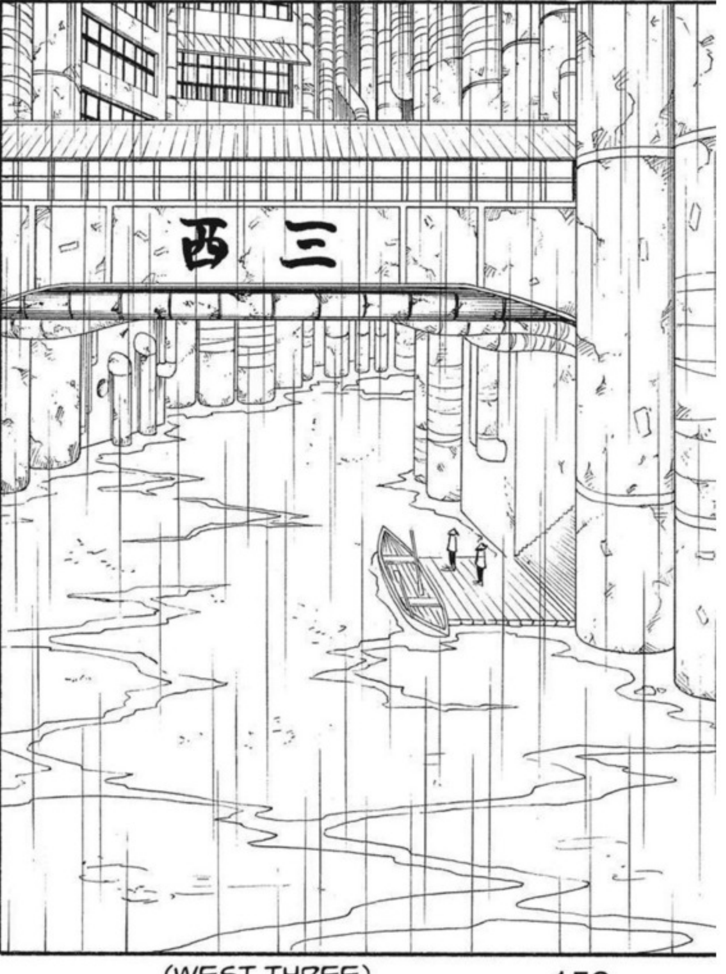

KARIN SAID SHE SENSED ANOTHER CHAKRA HERE.
WE GOT WORRIED.


FEATHERS ...?

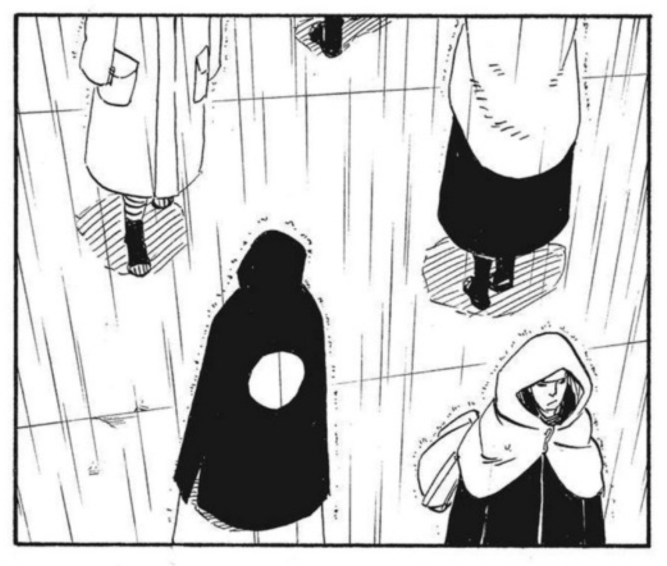

KRUNCH


FOLLOW ME.
WE'RE LEAV- ING...

VOOSH



(WEST THREE)







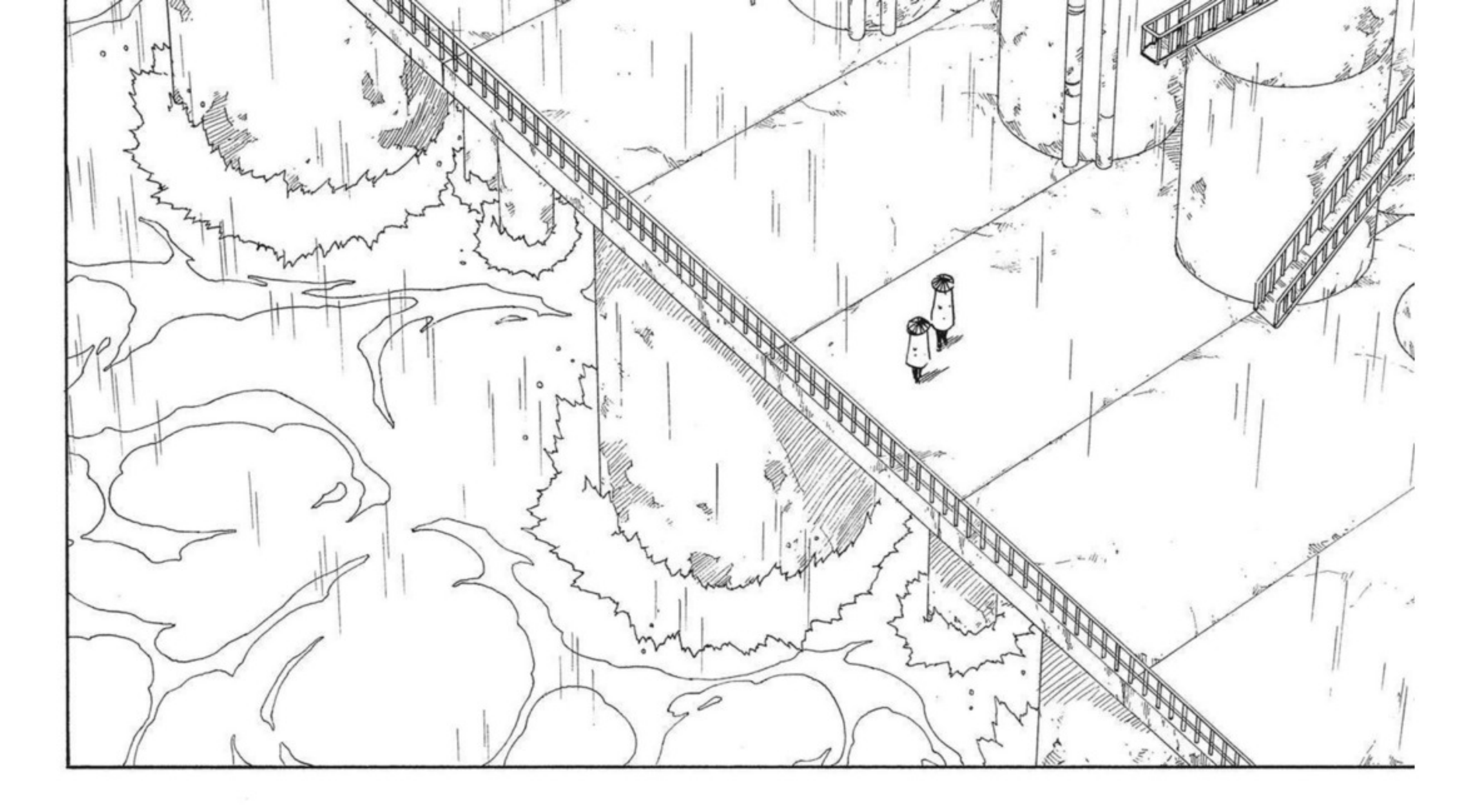
KONAN... WHEN I STOP THE RAIN, FERRET OUT THE INTRUDER WITH YOUR JUTSU.

OF COURSE.

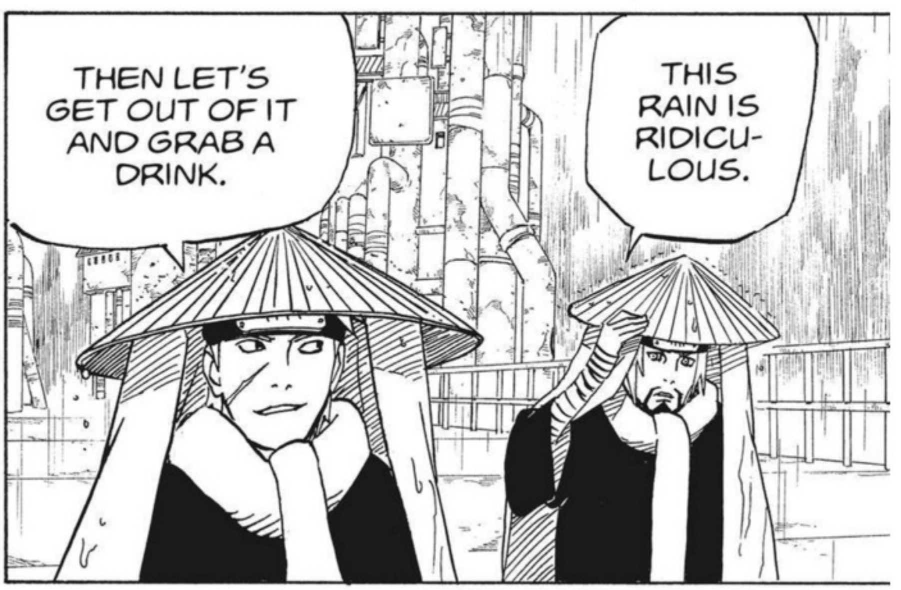
FWP-FWP

















(GRAND OPENING, CLUB TOAD)


フロッグ
WE'RE IN LUCK.


(FROG)


KLAK
WELCOME!

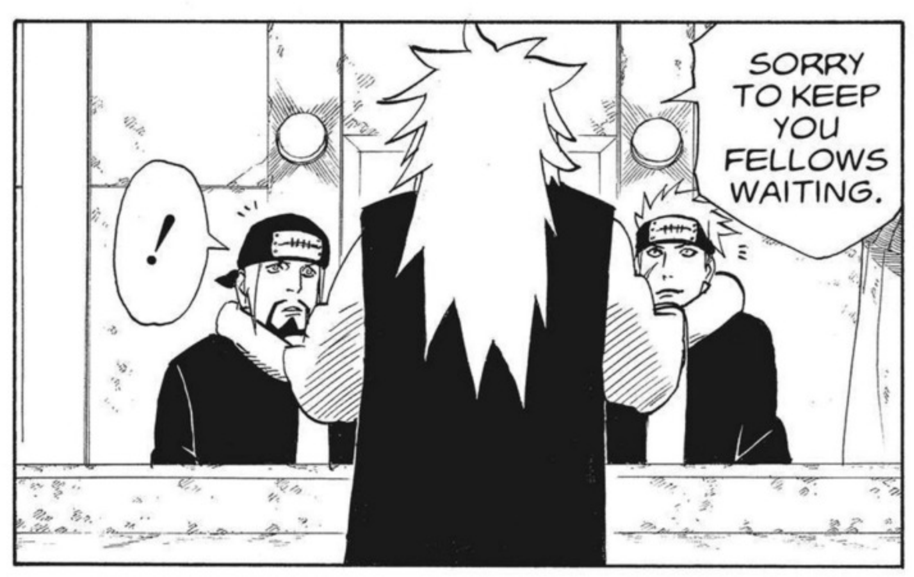

VOOSH
JUST TWO.
GIVE US SAKE AND SOME SNACKS.


KLATTER
TODAY'S NOT SUNDAY, RIGHT?


SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON WITH LORD PAIN.
MAYBE HE'S OFF IN SOME OTHER NATION...?
THUNK


BUT FOR IT TO RAIN ON A SUNDAY?
THAT'S UNUSUAL...


SO QUIT WHINING!
HEY...!
LORD PAIN GIVES SO MUCH OF HIMSELF FOR ALL OF US IN THIS CITY.

MAYBE... BUT THIS MUCH RAIN...
MAYBE IT'S A MATTER THAT REQUIRES QUITE A BIT OF POWER.

!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU FELLOWS WAITING.

GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

TODAY, WE HAVE OUR GRAND OPENING SPECIAL...

BUT YOU HAVEN'T SERVED US ANYTHING YET?!
HUH...?







BOOF

TMP

KLATTER

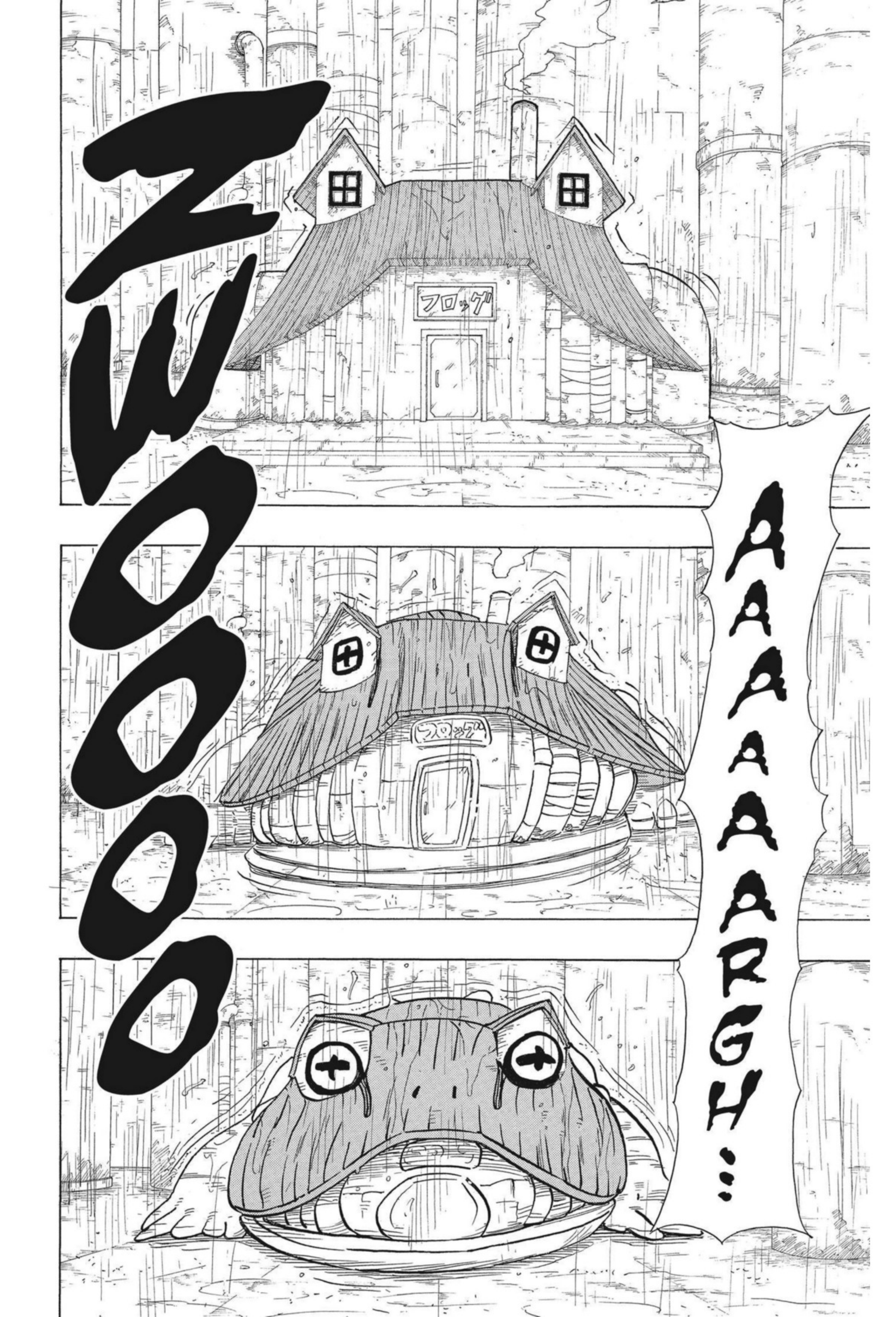
KLATTER

THUP

HUH!? WHO ARE YOU?!

I'M THE ONE WHO'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS.

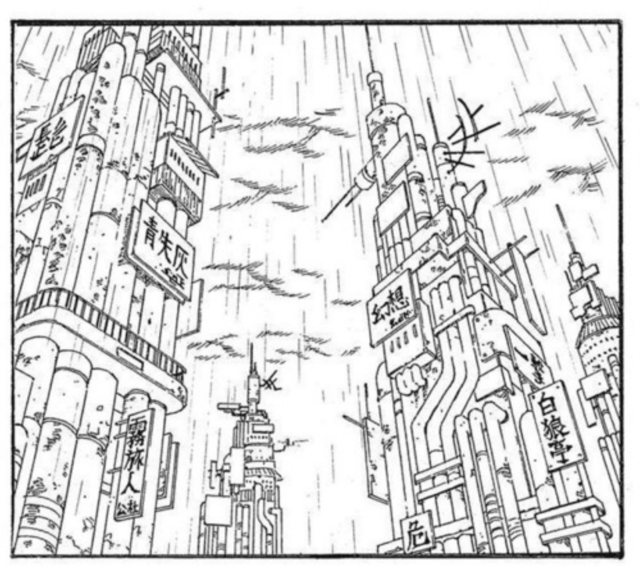
AND I'VE GOT LOTS OF THEM...

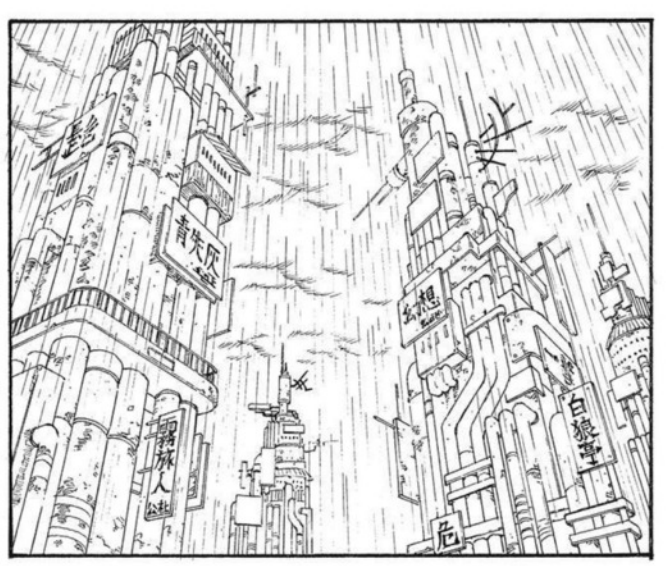


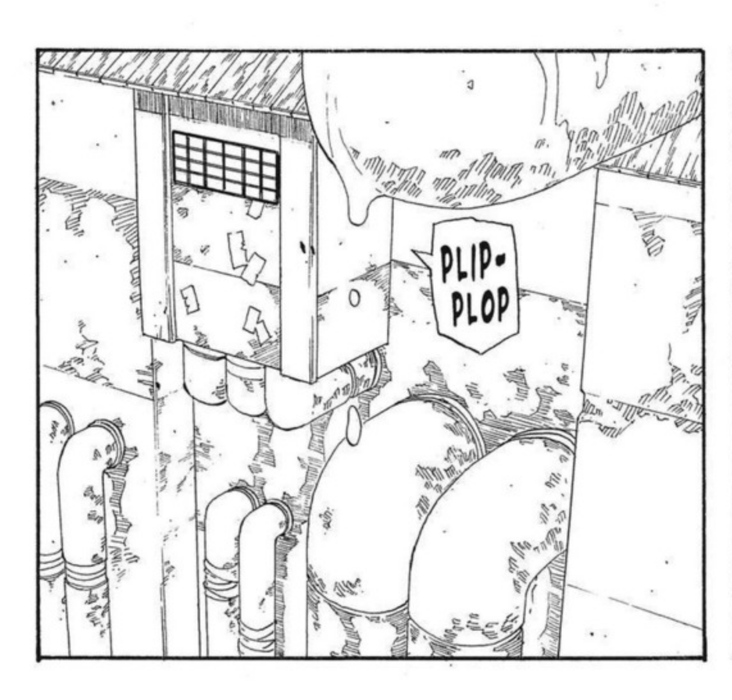
フロッグ
AAAAAARGH...
ZWOOOOO

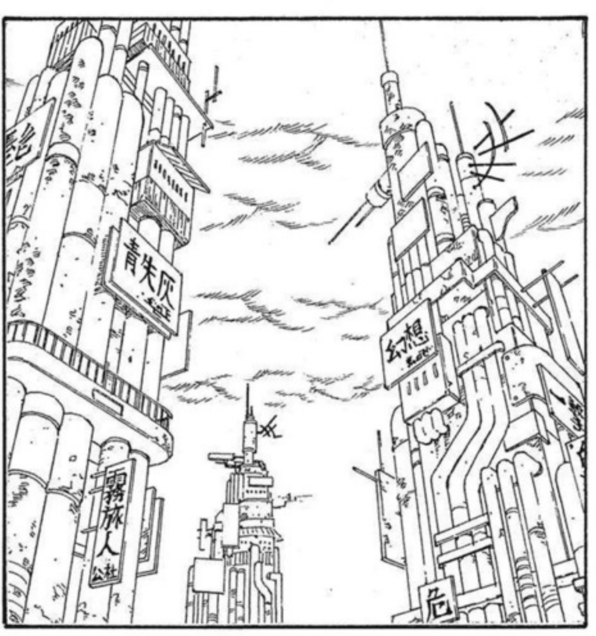

READ
THIS
WAY

ZWOOOOOOO
POINK
POINK
VOOOSH...
SPLASH!


青失灰
幻想
白狼亭
霧旅人
公社
危


青失灰
幻想
白狼亭
霧旅人
公社
危

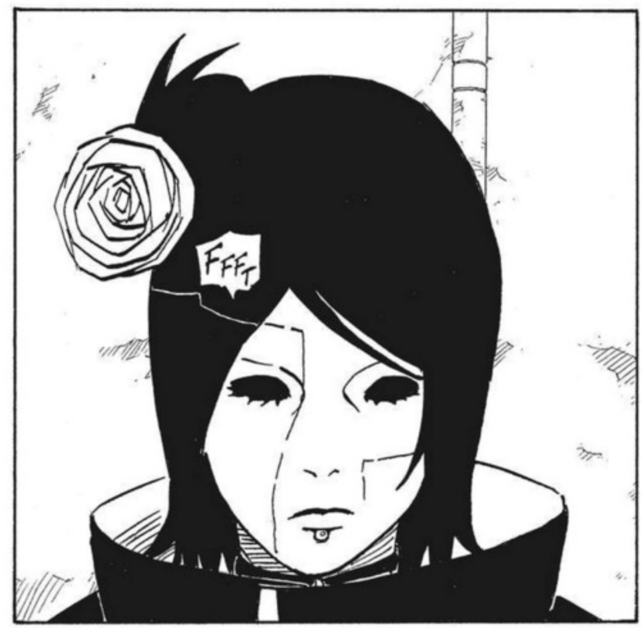

PLIP-
PLOP

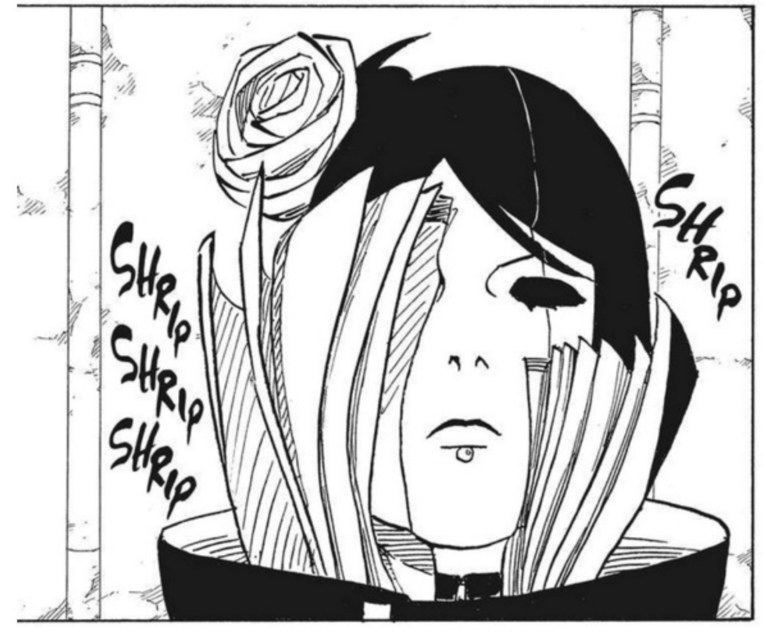

青失灰
幻想
霧旅人
公社
危

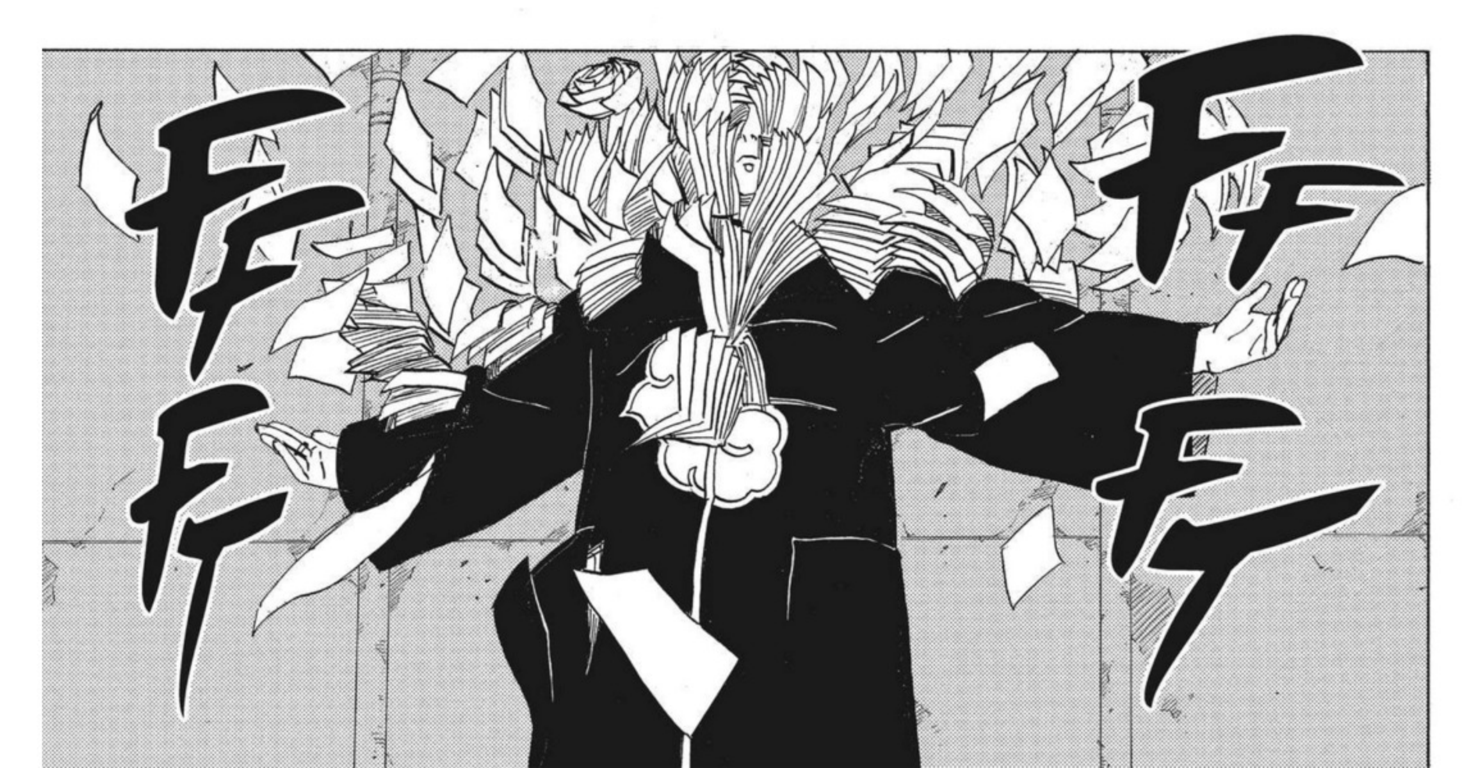

READ THIS WAY


DO IT, KONAN. NOW...


ON IT.


FFFT


SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
SHRIP


FFFT
FFFT

WHOOOSH



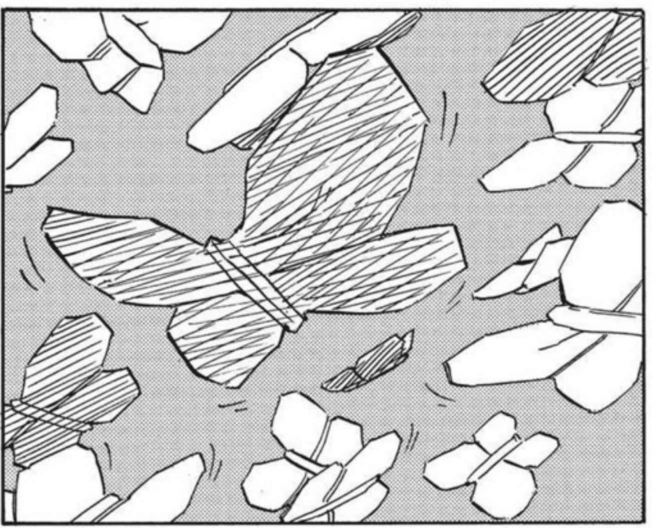


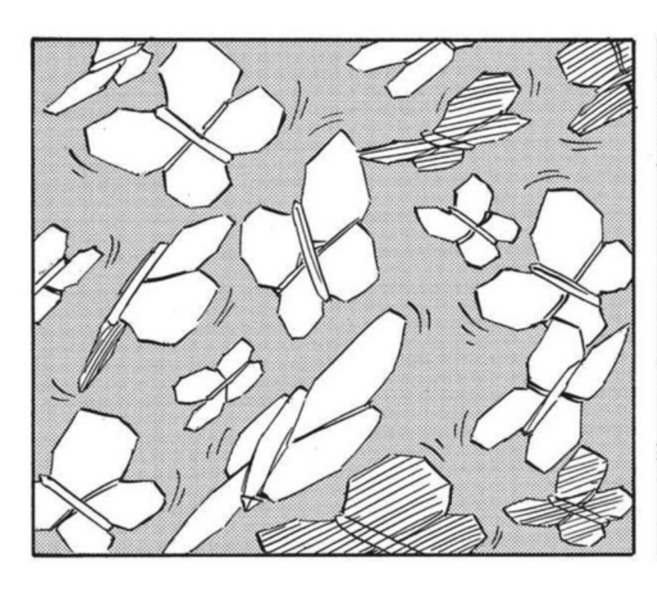



READ THIS WAY

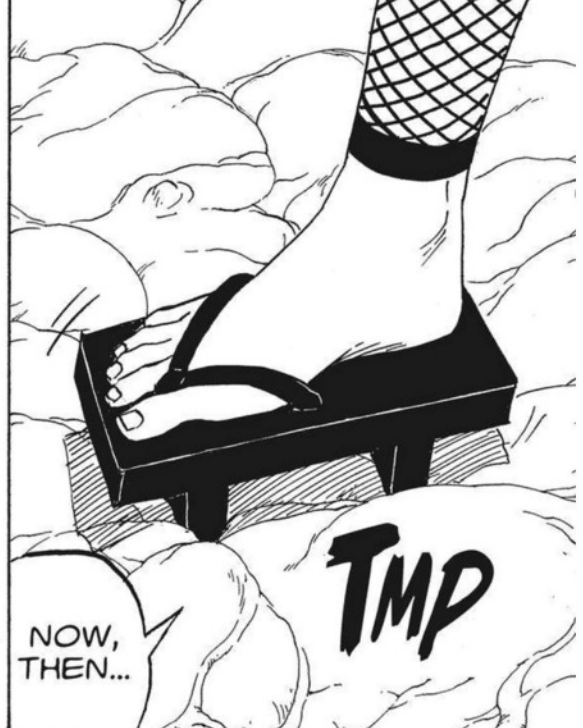

FFFT
FFFT


FFFT
FFFT





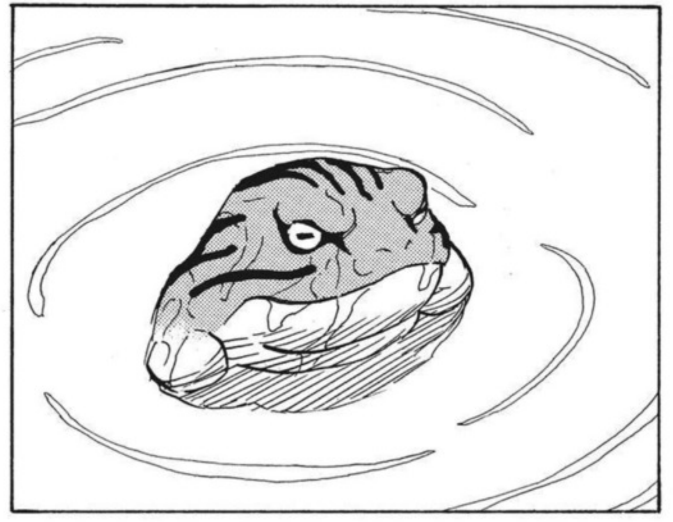



TMP
NOW, THEN...


FROM THE WAY YOU WERE TWIRLING THOSE KUNAI KNIVES...
...YOU MUST BE SHINOBI-UNDERLINGS, BY THE LOOK OF YOU— NO?


GAH...!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!


YOU'RE INSIDE THE STOMACH OF A TOAD.



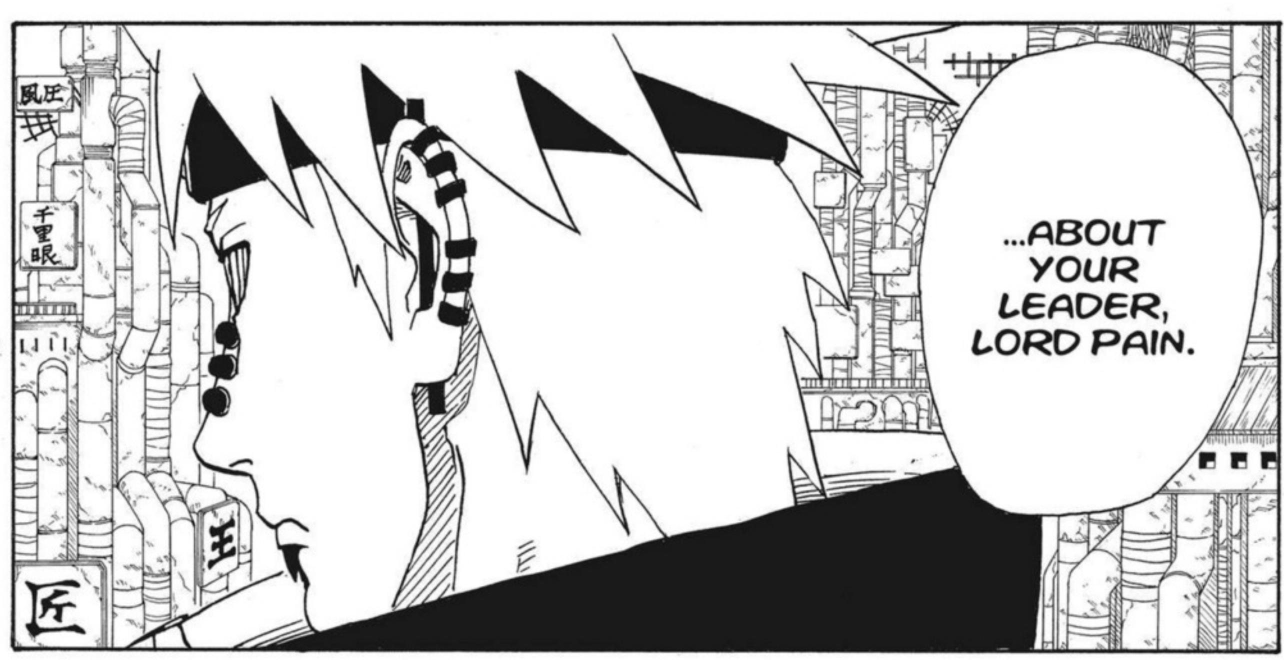

READ
THIS
WAY


WHO... WHAT ARE YOU?!


I TOLD YOU I'LL BE THE ONE ASKING QUESTIONS...
SWISH
...DIDN'T I?


...
WHAT'S THAT FEATHER FOR?


TICK-LING! WHAT ELSE?
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE FROM LAUGHING TOO MUCH, YOU BETTER ANSWER ALL OF MY QUES-TIONS...


...ABOUT YOUR LEADER, LORD PAIN.

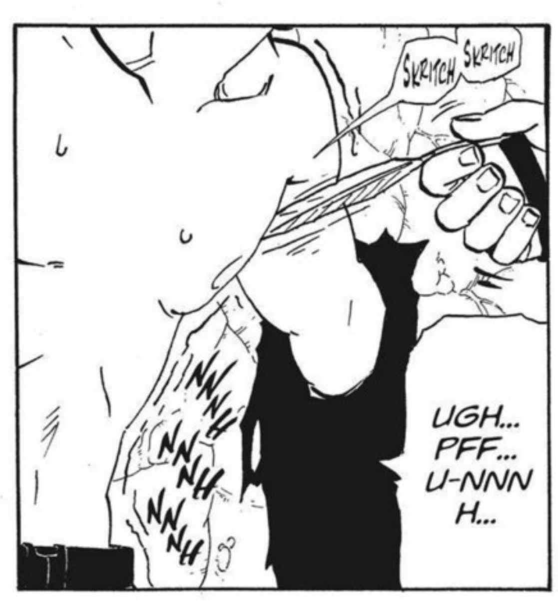

NARUTO

Number 369: Regarding Pain




GYA-
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

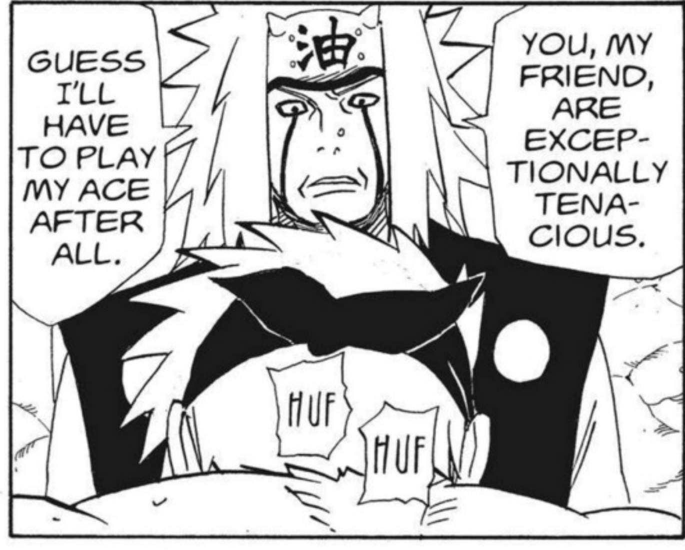

NOW SPILL IT!
TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT PAIN.


SKRITCH SKRITCH
UGH... PFF... U-NNN H...
NNNH NNNH NNNH NNNH

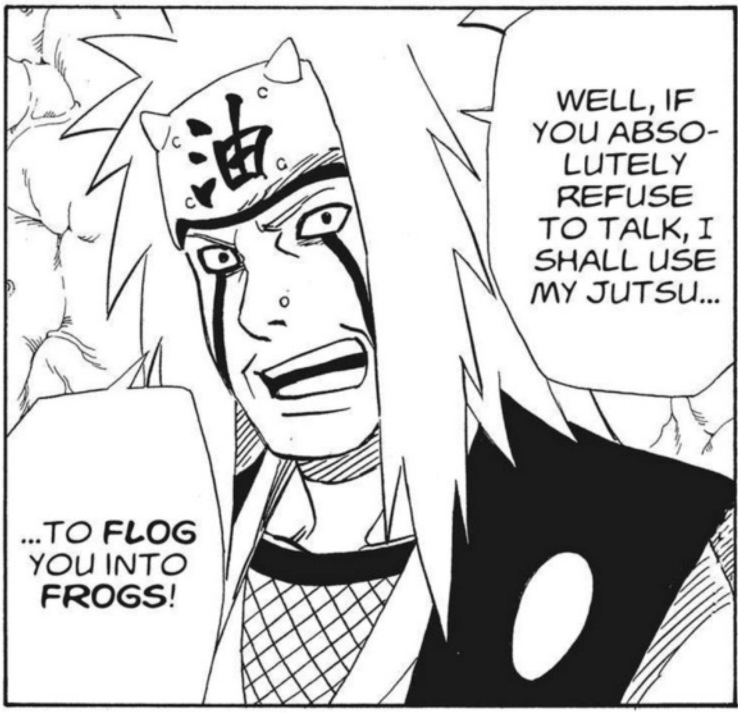

DON'T GIVE IN!


I WOULD NEVER... UGGH...
SKRITCH
...BETRAY... NO MATTER... WHAT... PFF...

READ THIS WAY



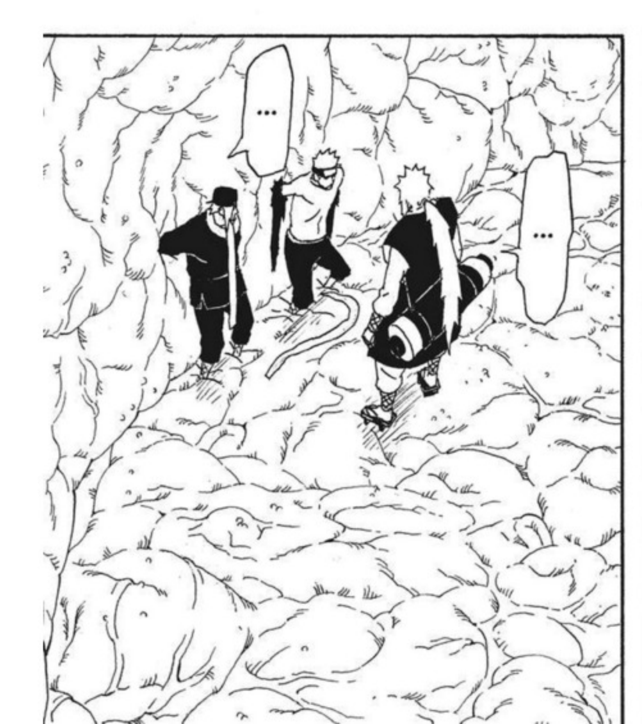






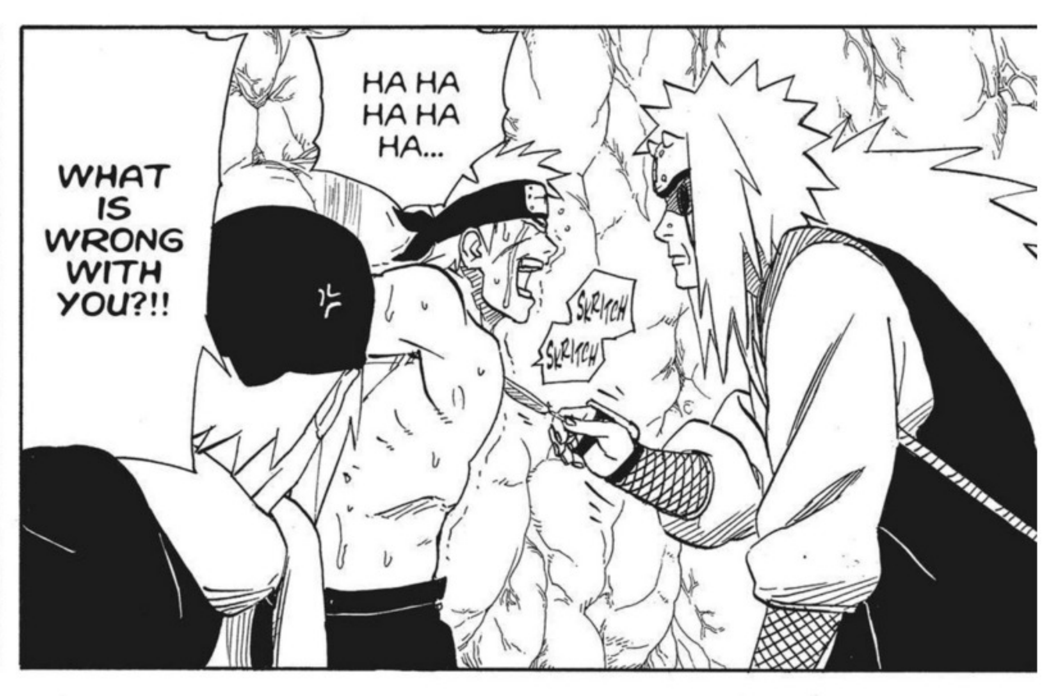







GYA-HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!


NOW SPILL IT!


HA HA HA HA HA...
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!!
SKRITCH
SKRITCH


WE MIGHT BE UNDER-LINGS, BUT WE'RE STILL RAIN NINJA!
WE WILL **NEVER** BETRAY OUR COMRADES!


SO GO AHEAD! DO YOUR WORST!
IT'S USELESS!



SIGH... DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARN YOU...

FWP

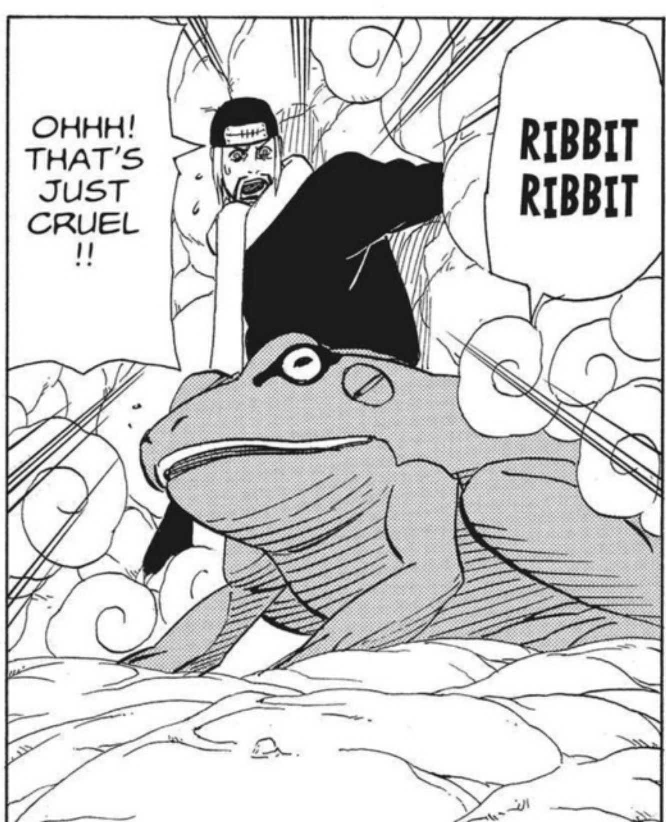
SHP

NINJA ART! TOAD TRANSFOR-MATION!!

N-NO...!!

BOOF

!





MUTTER...

...IT IS SAID THAT LORD PAIN... RESIDES IN THE TALLEST TOWER TO THE WEST...









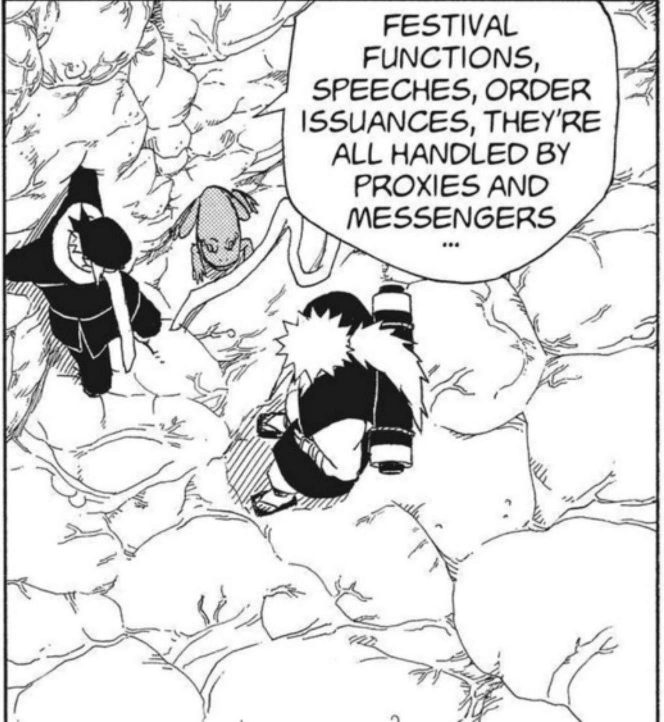



READ THIS WAY


IT IS SAID HE IS OF DEMON WIND CLAN LINEAGE...
...BUT NO ONE HAS EVER REALLY SEEN HIM UP CLOSE...
...AND SOME CLAIM THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN EXIST.


I WALKED AROUND A BIT EARLIER, BUT EVERYONE I PASSED WAS SINGING HIS PRAISES...
...SO DON'T LIE!


IN THIS CITY, LORD PAIN IS LIKE A GOD.
IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER HE EXISTS OR NOT... HE IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER AND PROTECTING US.


FESTIVAL FUNCTIONS, SPEECHES, ORDER ISSUANCES, THEY'RE ALL HANDLED BY PROXIES AND MESSENGERS ...


BUT HE IS YOUR LEADER, RIGHT?
SO WHY HIDE HIMSELF FROM EVEN HIS CLOSEST FOLLOW-ERS?


PRE-
CISELY
FOR
SITUA-
TIONS
LIKE
THESE...


I
SEE...


YOU...
YOU'RE
NOT AN
OLD AME-
GAKURE
REMNANT,
ARE
YOU?
SO WHO
ARE
YOU?


NEVER
MIND
WHO I
AM.
WHAT'S
THIS
ABOUT
OLD AME-
GAKURE
REM-
NANTS?


HEH...
YOU
REALLY
DON'T
KNOW
ANYTHING,
DO YOU?
YOU'RE
AN
OUT-
SIDER,
THEN
...


UNTIL VERY
RECENTLY,
ORIGINAL
AMEGAKURE
SHINOBI WERE
STILL SNEAKING
BACK IN AND
GOING AFTER
LORD PAIN
EVERY CHANCE
THEY COULD
GET.
BUT IT'S NO
LONGER A
CONCERN.
THE ONLY ONES
WHO MANAGE
TO FIND THEIR
WAY IN NOW
ARE LUCKY
FOREIGNERS
SUCH AS YOU.


READ THIS WAY


NO LONGER A CON-CERN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I HAD HEARD THAT YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CIVIL WAR.
IT'S NOT SURPRISING THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD... WE'RE SO CLOSED OFF.
SO LET ME TELL YOU.


THE CIVIL WAR HAS LONG BEEN OVER.
AND WE'RE THE ONES WHO WON!


THAT'S WHY LORD PAIN IS A LEGEND.
HE DEFEATED AMEGAKURE... ALL BY HIMSELF.
...



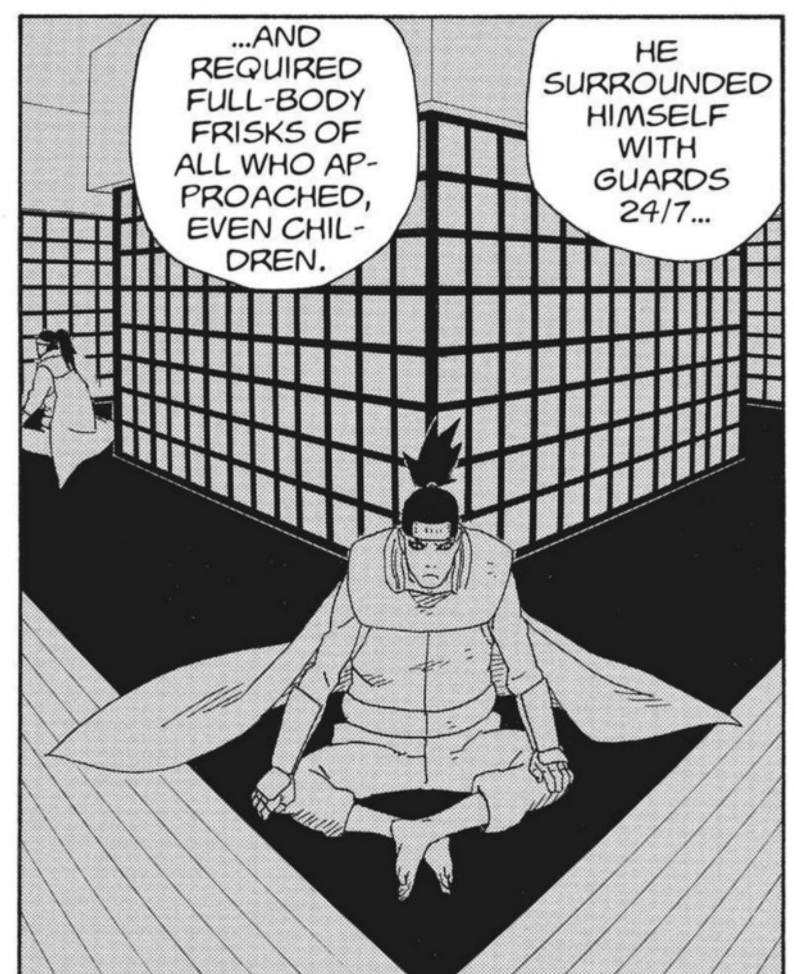



UNBELIEV-ABLE...

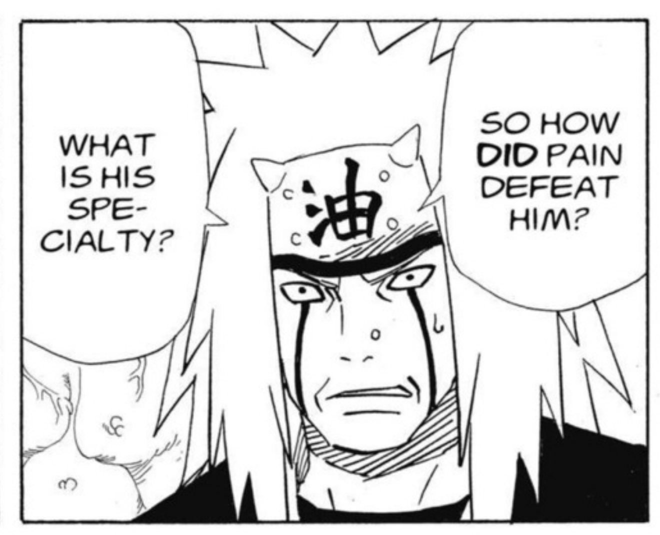
NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL THIS PAIN MIGHT BE...

...THERE TRULY WERE NO SHINOBI THAT DIDN'T KNOW THE NAME OF THE PREVIOUS AMEGAKURE LEADER, HANZO OF THE GIANT SALAMANDER...!





READ THIS WAY

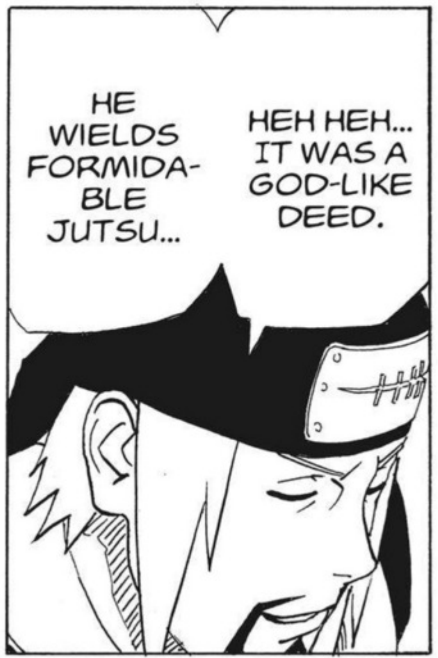





YOU THREE ARE VERY STRONG...
...YOU SURVIVED EVEN THIS BATTLE-GROUND...
I, HANZO...
...HEREBY CHRISTEN YOU THE THREE GREAT SHINOBI OF KONOHA.
IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LIVES... I WOULD KNOW YOUR NAMES...
...
油

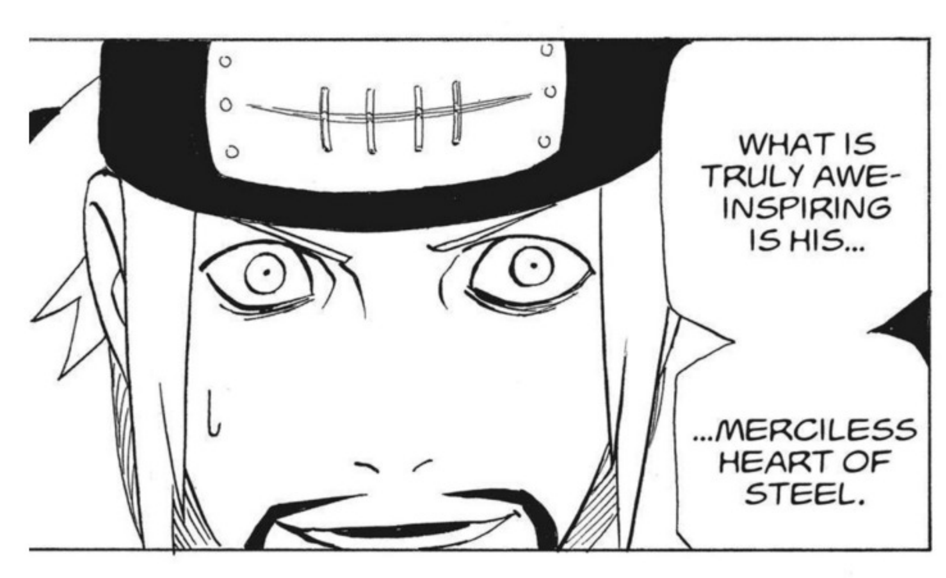

READ THIS WAY


UNBELIEV-ABLE... THAT HE COULD TAKE HANZO DOWN BY HIMSELF.


HEH HEH... IT WAS A GOD-LIKE DEED.
HE WIELDS FORMIDA-BLE JUTSU...


...BUT THAT IS NOT WHY LORD PAIN IS TO BE FEARED.


?


WHAT IS TRULY AWE-INSPIRING IS HIS...
...MERCILESS HEART OF STEEL.


?


HE HAS SYSTEMATICALLY ELIMINATED ALL WHO THREATEN OR QUESTION HIS VISION.

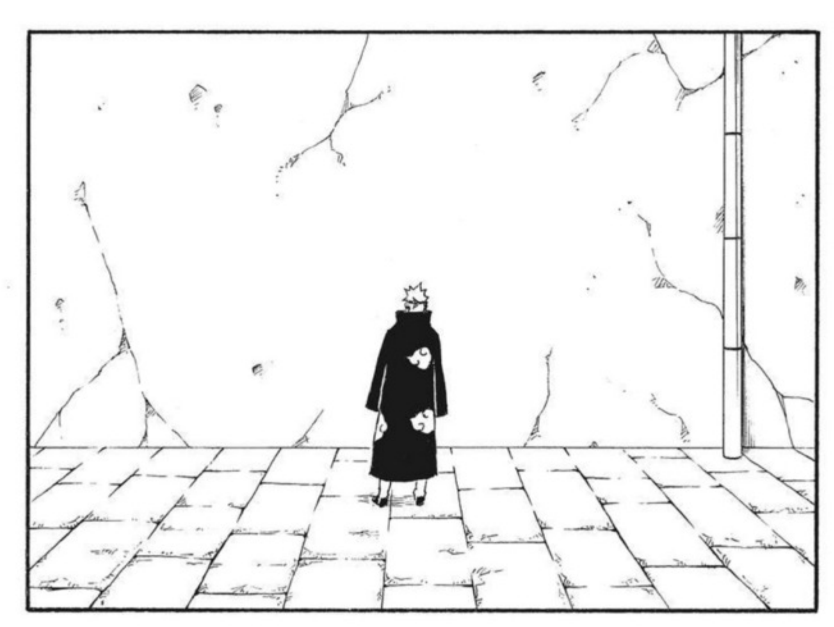
HE DIDN'T JUST DESTROY HANZO. HE ALSO KILLED HIS PARENTS, WIFE, AND CHILDREN...

...EVEN DISTANT RELATIVES AND COLLEAGUES, DOWN TO THE LAST INFANT.



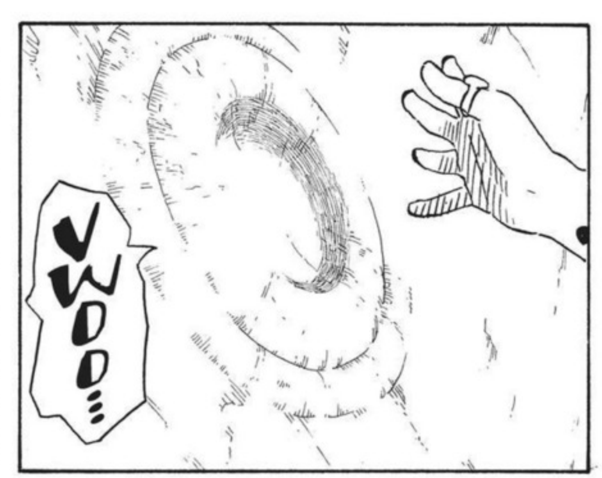


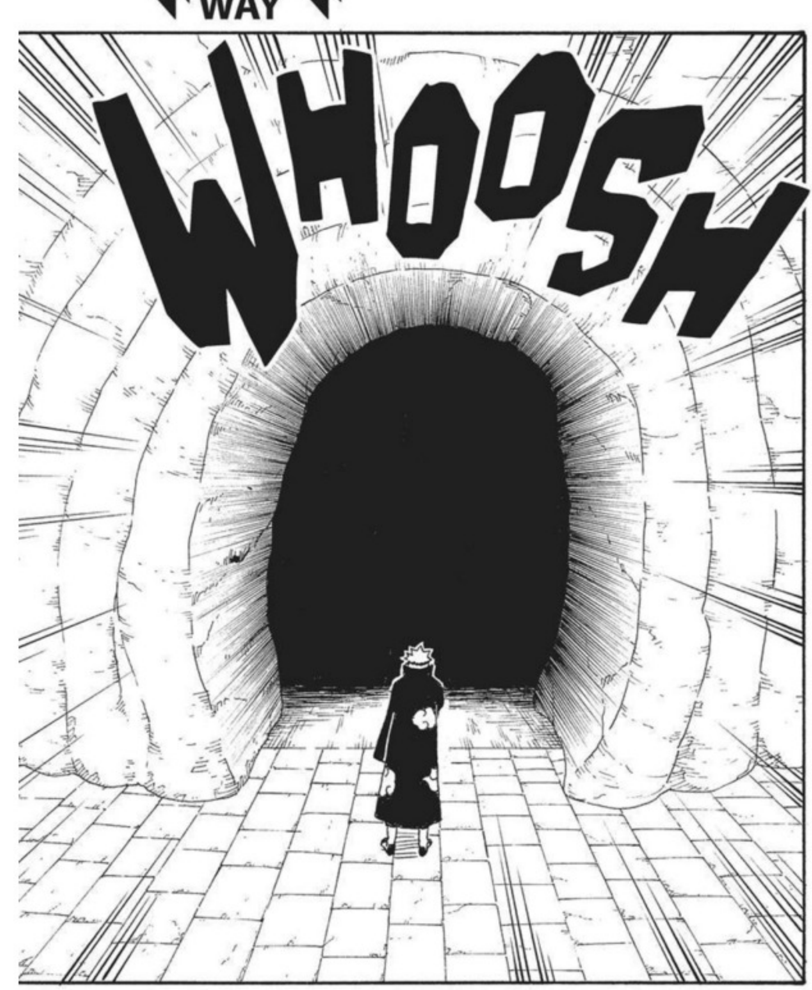




READ THIS WAY

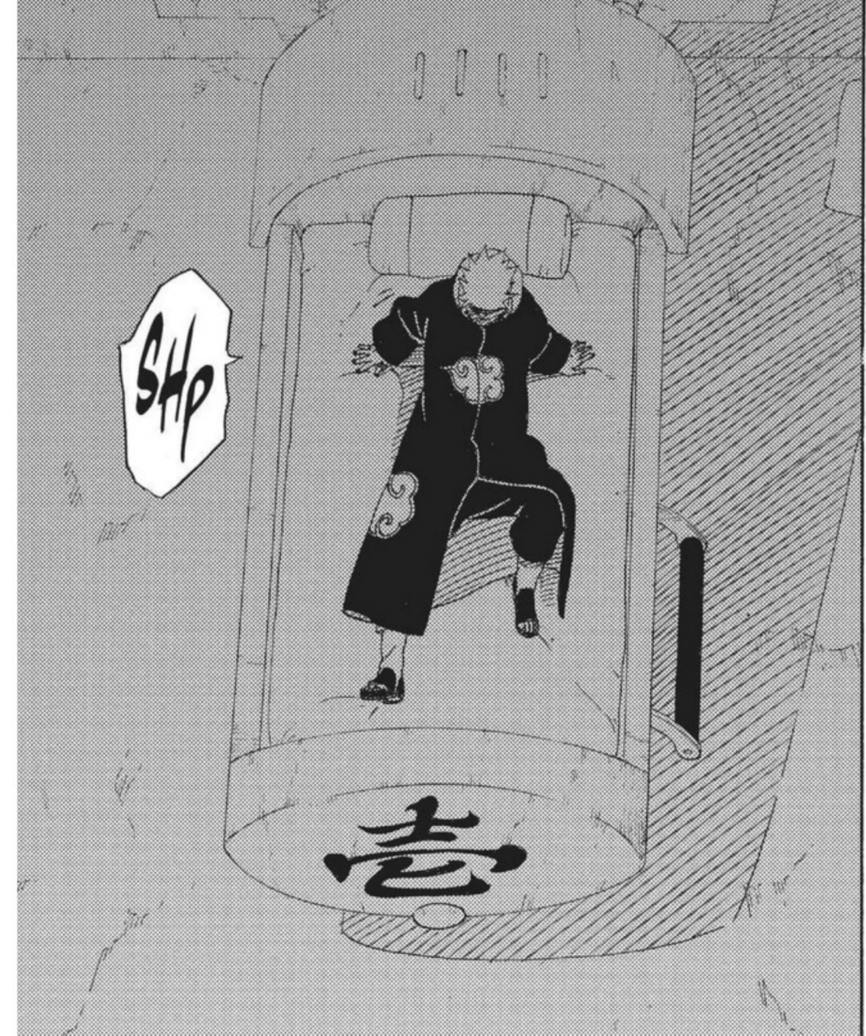


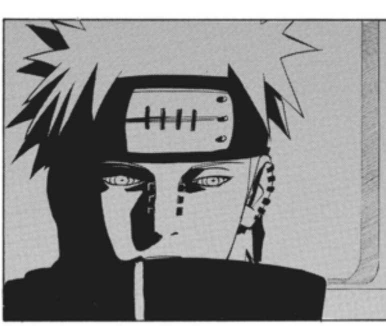


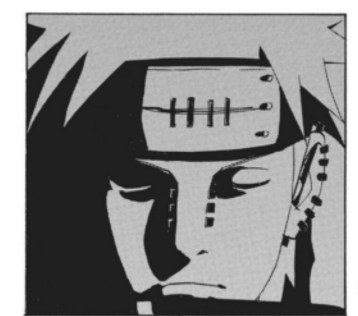




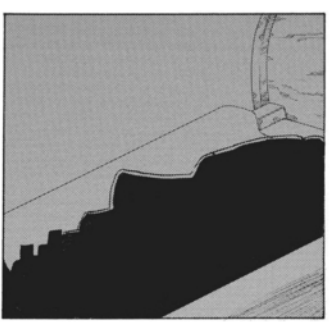












TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 41!